

History
of
The First Religious Society
The First Parish Church
Carlisle, Mass.
1780 - 1943

Foreword

Chronological List of Topics

History

Phil. Chamberlin Wilkins

May 12, 1943.

- 5960 -

- Foreword -

This is an informal history of the First Religious Society in Carlisle, the First Parish Church - with digressions unavoidable in relating the life story of an institution so vitally a part of the Town.

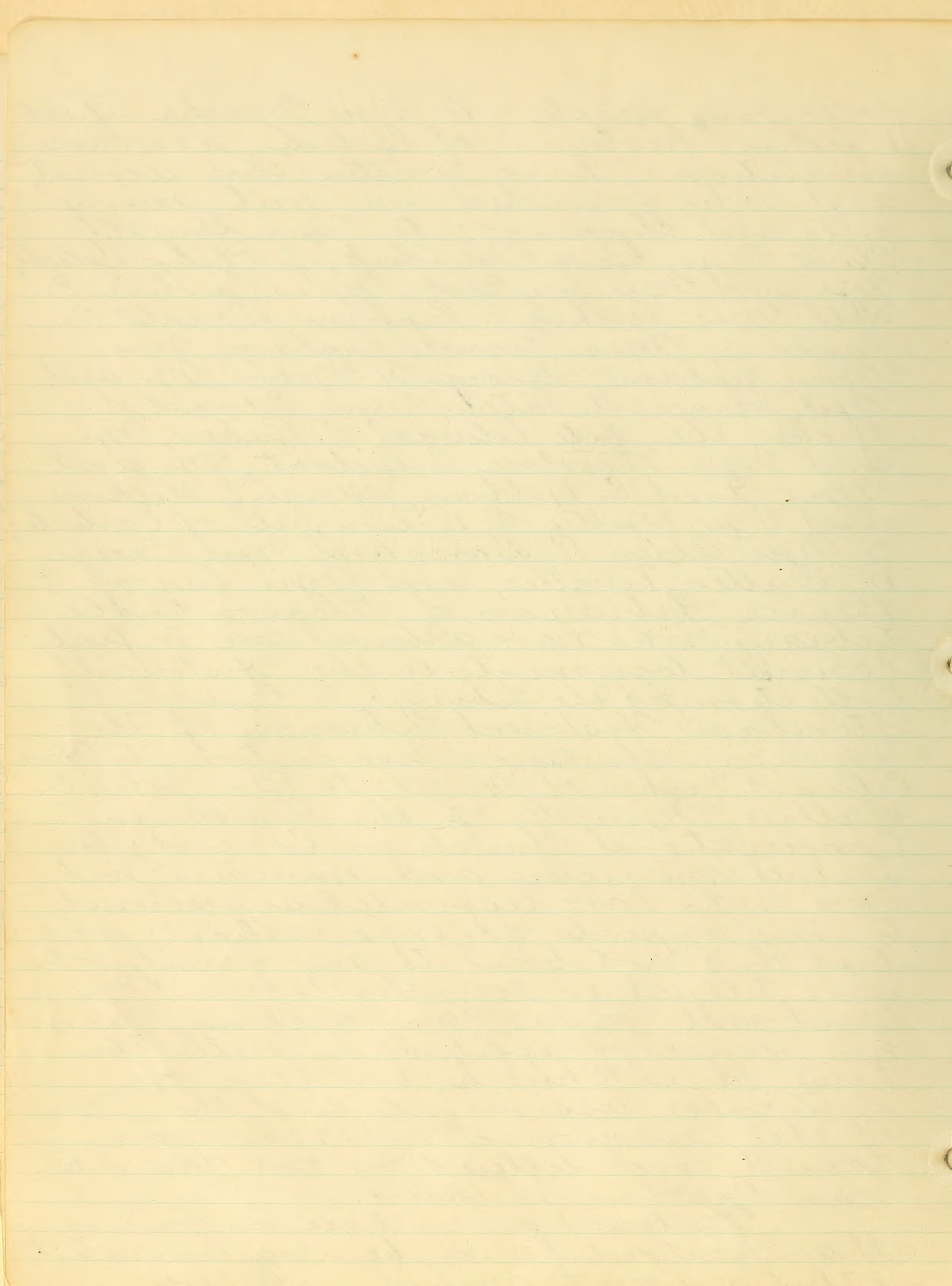
Although the various organizations connected with the First Religious Society are here frequently mentioned, no attempt has been made to give the history of these; nor has justice been done, although tribute is here paid, to the sustaining influence and support of the Ladies Union, later the Ladies Social Circle, and now the Woman's Alliance. We all know the faithful workers of this day, and it is to these women, and others like them through the years that we owe much for the continued well being of the First Religious Society and the First Parish Church. The Sunday School, Unity Guild and the Laymans League too have all filled their own important and valuable places in the life of the Society.

The opportunity to examine the Town Records as much as necessary has been of inestimable value - in fact this work could not have been done without that privilege, since there is found the only official record of the First Religious Society during the years when it was a Town Church. Records of the First Religious Society since the separation of Town and Parish, and the Records of the Church of Christ in Carlisle, have been placed at my disposal, and help has come from many sources.

I am particularly indebted to the

following people - to Mrs. Martha Fifield Wilkins, Historian of Carlisle, at whose invitation I have written this account, and who furnished me with many facts and clippings; to Mrs. Guy W. Clark, Mrs. Hena M. Clark, J. Philip Detach, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Fisk, Miss Caroline E. Hill, Mrs. Arthur T. Lapham, Donald A. Lapham, Miss Frances Lapham, Mrs. Mary Lapham, George N. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Patch, Mrs. Edward S. Picker, the late Edward S. Picker, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore C. Bidout, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Robbins, George E. Wilkins and Mrs. Nettie C. Wilson, all of Carlisle; to Mrs. Alden R. Davis and Mrs. George W. Dutton, Trustees, and Mrs. Eugene F. Bearce, Librarian of Gleason Public Library, who have allowed me to freely consult documents in the Historical Collection at the Library. To Mrs. E. F. Stoneham, Historical Librarian of the American Unitarian Association; to Hon. Edward Fisher of Lowell; to Rev. John E. Wallace, Minister of the Unitarian Congregational Church in Concord; to former ministers and ministers' widows who have responded so graciously to my appeals for information; and last but not least to my family who have helped in countless ways. My husband, James Harry Wilkins, from his years of affiliation with the First Parish Church, has been of particular assistance and the Plan of the Burial-ground in 1793, was copied and lettered by our daughter, Jean Caroline Wilkins.

Material given here as fact is all authenticated and the sources noted so that it may be verified whenever



desirable. Wherever practical I have quoted records verbatim, with the feeling that it is often more interesting and presents a truer impression to know the exact words used. Information from newspaper clippings has been included with the realization that errors may be present but that not to use them on that account would be to also lose much that is correct and of value.

Anything which is conjecture or opinion is so stated and is entirely my own responsibility.

In spite of constant care and careful checking of material there will inevitably be found here errors and omissions. I shall be grateful to have any which are noted brought to my attention.

It has been gratifying to discover many facts about the First Parish Church and the First Religious Society which have been previously obscure. Some of the information may be more detailed than seems necessary but I have felt that it would be convenient and in many ways desirable to have available material collected and made thus more accessible.

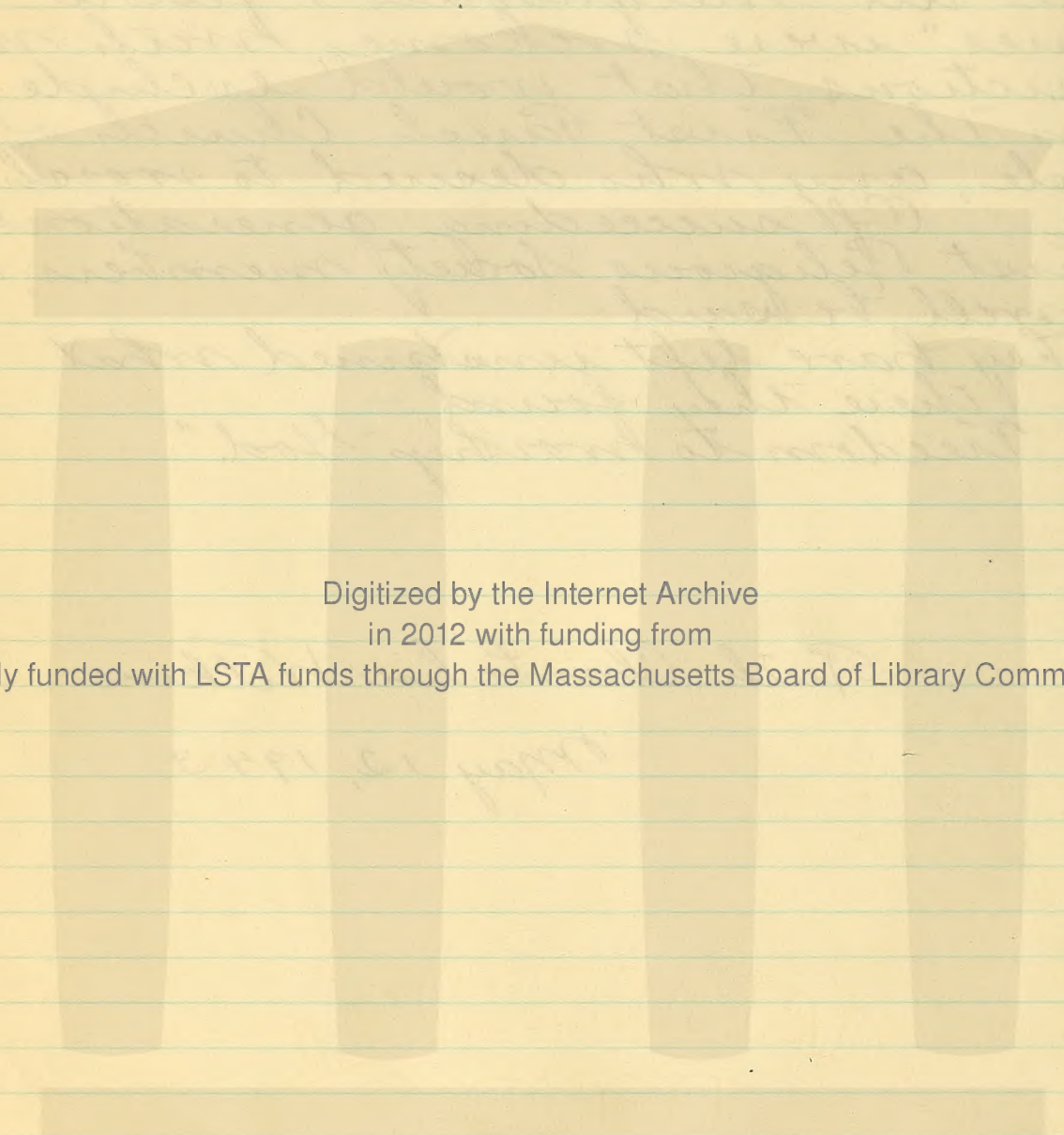
This work has been completed in appreciation of the value to our Town of the First Religious Society of Cuttish whose Meetinghouse for one hundred and sixty-three years has been maintained as a parish church and a Community Center, where all have been made welcome. Land for the first Meetinghouse was given one hundred and eighty-five years ago by a man whose gift was presented "for and in consider-

ation of the love and regard that I have for the public worship of God and the good of my neighbours & fellow creatures. The Meetinghouse on this land has always been a church where all "neighbours & fellow creatures" were welcome, with no restrictions that would exclude from the First Parish Church of Carlisle, any who desired to worship there. Of succeeding generations of First Religious Society members, it can well be said -

"They have left unstained what
there they found -
Freedom to worship God."

- Ruth Chamberlin Wilkins -

May 12, 1943.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
Federally funded with LSTA funds through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Chronological List Of Topics

First Attempt To Establish Religious Center In Carlisle, Unsuccessful - 1754 -	1
Opposition To Dissolution Of First District of Carlisle -	3
Land For Carlisle Meetinghouse Given by Timothy Wilkins ¹⁷⁵⁸ -	4
First Meetinghouse In Carlisle Erected - 1758 -	5
The First Parish Meetinghouse, 1758-1780 -	6
The First Religious Society - 1780	7
Plans For Preaching And For Improving Meetinghouse ¹⁷⁸⁰ -	10
Members Of First Religious Society - 1780	11
The Church Of Christ In Carlisle - 1781 -	16
The First Pastor Of Carlisle Called - 1781.	21
Ordination Of Rev. Paul Litchfield - Nov 7, 1781	23
Vendue Of Lewground At Meetinghouse - 1781	25
Further Improvements At Meetinghouse - 1783	27
"Stabling For Horses" - 1783	28
Seating The Meetinghouse - 1783	28
Hours Of Worship - 1784	29
Sabbath Day House - Noon House, 1786-1788	30
Arrangements For Seating Singers, 1789 and 1798 -	34
Posting Warrants At Meetinghouse - 1790.	34

Gallery Few Ground Sold - 1793.	36
Meetinghouse Shingled - 1793	36
Plan Of Few Ground In Gallery - 1793	37
Simon Blood Donation - Ministerial Lot - 1793	38
District Ammunition Stored At Meetinghouse - 1797.	41
Changes And Improvements At Meetinghouse - 1795-1798-	41
More Gallery Few-ground Sold - 1798	44
Bulletin Board Erected At Meetinghouse - 1808	45
Hours Of Worship Changed - 1810	46
Meetinghouse Burned - 1810	46
Planning And Construction Of New Meetinghouse ¹⁸¹⁰⁻ ₁₈₁₁	47
Account Of Sale Of Few - 1810	57
Copy Of Few Deed - 1810	59
Transfer Of Few In Meetinghouse	60
Specifications For Building Meetinghouse - 1810	61
First Annual Town Meeting In New Meetinghouse ¹⁸¹²⁻	64
Meetinghouse Bell Procured - 1812	65
Care Of Meetinghouse And Ringing Of Bell, 1796-1826-	67
Meetinghouse Interior Completed. 1813-1814	70
The Common. 1813	71
The White Oak Tree	72

The Vass Viols	73,
Repairs At Meetinghouse, 1816 and 1819-	74
Mr. Litchfield's Wood Vendued	75
Report On Simon Blood Jr. Donation 1819-1825.	78
Ministerial Lot- 1823	81
Horse Stables - 1824-	81
Carlisle Residents Who Became Members of Baptist Society, Chelmsford - 1824.	84
The Common - 1824 and 1828	86
Meetinghouse Repaired And Painted, 1824-1825.	87
Death Of Rev. Paul Litchfield - 1827 <i>Something of His Life In Captivity</i>	89
Plans For Preaching Following Mr. Litchfield's Death - 1827	102
Disagreement Over Calling A Minister - 1828	102
Withdrawal Of Dissatisfied Members of Town Church ^{1828 or 1829} '03	103
Routine Parish Affairs Administered - 1829	108
Consideration Of Important Parish Matters - 1828 & 1829 Incorporation Of Society Ministerial Fund And Woodlot Recovery of Church Records and Furniture -	109
Routine Parish Business - 1830	113
Rev. Stephen Hull Called As Minister, 1830-1835-	114
Separation Between Town And Parish Complete ₁₈₃₂ -	116

First Meeting Of First Religious Society Which
Was Not Controlled And Recorded By Town - 118
Feb-1832-

Members Of First Religious Society. 1832-1833	120
First Store Purchased For Meetinghouse - 1832.	122
Repairs At Meetinghouse 1833-1835.	122
Minister On School Committee - 1830-	123
End Of Rev. Mr. Hull's Pastorate - 1835	124
Warrants For Parish Meetings To Be Posted - 1835.	124
Methods Of Meeting Parochial Charges. 1832 -	125
Ministers Who Supplied Pulpit - 1835.	127
Rev. George W. Fittimore Stacy. Nov 1835-April 1839.	128
Ordination Of Rev. George W. Stacy, May 4, 1836	129
Stand On Temperance Taken By Mr. Stacy	131
ringing Of The Meetinghouse Bell. 1831-1837.	133
Noon House Removed - 1837	135
Rev. Mr. Stacy On Committee To Procure Physician - 1838.	136
Isaiah Green, Trustee Of Parish Fund - 1839.	137
Resignation Of Rev. Mr. Stacy - April 1839.	138
Pulpit Supplied Following Rev. Mr. Stacy's Departure -	139
Votes Regulating Use Of Meetinghouse. 1842-1843.	139

Repairs At Meetinghouse Made By Town - 1841.	140
Decision Of Town That It Had No Rights In First Parish Meetinghouse - 1846	140.
Repairs And Painting At Meetinghouse - 1848	143.
Crew Owners In 1848	144
Last Regular Tax Levied On Society Members - 1848.	146.
Voluntary Contributions For Parish Expenses Establish- ed, 1849. Occasional Special Taxes	147
Rev. Mr. Hervey, Minister 1848 - 1851	149
Tythingmen Of Carlisle. 1754 - 1850	150
The Common - 1852	153
Rev. Davis Smith Ordained As An Evangelist - 1853 -	155
Meetinghouse Remodelled - 1852	157
Crews In Remodelled Meetinghouse Leased - 1852 -	162
First Floor Of Meetinghouse Made Into Hall - 1853	164
Union Hall Furnished For Use - 1854.	165
Union Hall Rented To Town - 1854	166
Meeting House Property First Taped - 1855.	169
Ministerial Lot Sold - 1853	169
"Seraphim" Purchased For Meetinghouse - 1854	172
Ministers At Meetinghouse - 1854 - 1855	174

"Lerces" and "Tea Parties" Socially And Financially Successful. 1855 -	175
Rev. Luther Walcott, Minister 1856-1857	176
Rev. James T. Powers, Minister 1857-1863	178
Committee Report On Organization And Membership - 1857.	179
New Meetinghouse Bell Purchased - 1858	182
Administration Of Parish Affairs Following Remodelling Of Meetinghouse - 1859	184
Meetinghouse And Hall Painted - 1860	185
Moan Bell Discontinued - 1861	187
Organist First Paid For Services - 1862 Organists Of First Religious Society	188
Resignation Of Rev. James T. Powers - 1863	190
Date Of Annual Parish Meeting Changed - 1864.	190
Expenses For Preaching - 1864.	191
Rev. B. F. Summerbell, Pastor, Fall, 1864 - Spring, 1866.	191
Cews Revalued - 1865	192
End Of Rev. Mr. Summerbell's Pastorate - 1866.	194
Rev. John Stillman Smith, Pastor 1866-1871	195
Repairs To Interior Of Meetinghouse - 1866 Clock Presented To Society	196
Reorganization Of Society Recommended - 1867.	197

Code Of By Laws Adopted - 1867.	200
Repairs On Meetinghouse - 1867	202
New Organ Purchased - 1868	202
New Meetinghouse Spire Erected - 1868	204
Bequest Of Capt. Thomas Green - 1868	206
First Recorded Contacts With American Unitarian Society - 1870	206
Last Tax On Members - 1870	
Last Rental Of Pews - 1870	207
Soliciting Committee To Obtain Subscriptions For Support Of Public Worship - 1871	208
Rev. Mr. Smith's Pastorate Ended - April, 1871.	209
Trespassing On Common. 1859 - 1884	210
Two Successful Levees - 1872	213
Town Library In Union Hall - 1872	213
Rent Of Union Hall To Town Increased - 1873	214
New Store Purchased - 1873	215
Ministers At First Parish Church - 1871 - 1874	216
First Recorded Vote To Hire Unitarian Minister '874	217
Rev. James T. Powers' Second Pastorate In Carlisle 1874 - 1875.	217
Rev. James J. Twiss. 1875 - 1879	219
Meetinghouse Painted - 1878	220

Resignation Of Rev. James J. Twiss - Nov. 1879	222
Pulpit Supplies Following Rev. Mr. Twiss, 1879-1880	224
Rev. Mr. Saltmarsh, 1880-1881	224
Union Hall Used For Armory Purposes, 1880-1907.	225
Horse Sheds Erected - 1881	226
Rev. Charles F. Russell - 1882	229
Pulpit Supplies - 1883	229
Society Joins South Middlesex Conference - 1883	229
Rev. George T. Piper, Pastor 1884-1890.	230
Legacies To First Religious Society, 1882, 1886.	231
First Religious Society Sunday School - 1884	231
Lectures Sponsored By First Religious Society ¹⁸⁸⁵ 1893.	236
Women Admitted To Membership - 1887	236
Organ Given First Religious Society - 1888	237
Old Folks Concert - 1889	238
Ladies Union Meetings At Homes - 1890-1905	239
Rev. Edgar C. Abbott - Pastor - 1890-1901	242
Open Air Services - 1891	243
Vote To Paint Church - 1893	244
Town Clock Placed In Tower Of First Parish Church ¹⁸⁹⁴	245

New Piano Purchased - 1894	247
Parish Committee Instructed About Repairs ¹⁸⁹⁴ 1895	248
Flower Sunday - 1895	248
Quarterly Meeting Of Northwest Temperance Union At First Parish Church - 1895	249
Requests To First Religious Society - 1898	250
Use Of House Sheds Offered - 1898	251
First Ushers Elected By First Religious Society - 1899.	251
Dining Room And Kitchen Under Union Hall - 1900.	252
Furnace Installed - 1900	255
Church Insured - 1900	256
Rent Of Union Hall Raised - 1901	256
Rev. Walter E. Lane, Pastor, Fall, 1901 - Summer, 1906	257
Rev. Walter E. Lane Married - 1902	257
Installation Of Rev. Walter E. Lane - 1902	258
Union Sunday School Christmas Party - 1903	260
Unity Guild - 1904	261
Church Redecorated - 1904	262
Trustees Of Parish Funds - 1905	263
Wedding Following Unity Guild Meeting - 1905	265
Union Memorial Sunday Service - 1905	266

By Laws Revised - 1906	267
Resignation Of Rev. Walter E. Lane - 1906	270
Rev. Frank N. Billington, Pastor, Fall, 1906 - Spring 1911.	272.
Parish Supper - Note Paid. - 1906	272
Installation Of Rev. Frank N. Billington - 1907.	273
Parish Records To Include Vital Statistics - 1907	275
Anti-Saloon League Speakers - 1908, 1911.	275
Annual Meeting Of Parish - 1909	276
Church Painted - New Windows Installed - 1910	276
Resignation Of Rev. Frank N. Billington - 1911.	277
Electric Lights Installed In Church - 1911	277
Rev. Granville Pierce, Minister 1911 - 1914	278
One Hundredth Anniversary Of Building Celebrated '91.	278
First Parish Minister At Dedication of Congregational Chapel - 1912	280
Rev. and Mrs. Pierce In New Home - 1913	281
Gift Of Silk Flag To Sunday School - 1913	282
Pipe Organ Installed In Church - 1913	283
Womans Branch Alliance Formed - 1914	285
Resignation Of Rev. Granville Pierce - 1914	286
Rev. Elvin J. Prescott, Pastor, 1915 - 1918	287

Reception To Rev. and Mrs Elvin J Prescott - 1915	288
● Parish Entertained By Rev. and Mrs. Prescott - 1915.	289
Work Day At Church - 1915	290
Serlina G. Richardson Request Accepted - Annual Parish Meeting - 1916	291
Change In Time Of Service - 1917	291
End Of Rev. Elvin J. Prescott's Pastorate - 1918	292
Ministers Who Supplied Pulpit Following Mr Prescott ^{1918-1919.}	293
Rev. Joseph Henry Crooker D. D. - Pastor 1919-1921	293
"The Old Teabody Tew" Given In Church - 1921	297
● Electric Blower For Pipe Organ - 1921	298
First Envelope System Of Parish Financing Adopted - 1922.	299
Pulpit Supplies Following Mr. Crooker - 1921-1922.	299
Rev. Alfred D. K. Shurtleff, Pastor, 1922-1930	300
Repairs At Church. 1922 and 1924	300
Rent Of Union Hall - 1924	301
Alliance Room Decorated And Furnished - 1924	301
First Laymans Service - Laymans League Formed - 1924	301
● Laymans League Supper And Circus - 1925	302
Union Halloween Party - 1925	304
Water System Installed At Church - 1925-1926.	305

Memorial Candle Given And Dedicated - 1925.	306
Request From Estate Of Mr. Benjamin Franklin Heald - 1926.	309
Horse Sheds Removed - 1926	309
Laymans League Club Rooms - 1926	309
New Heating System Installed - 1927	310
Church Painted - 1927	311
Trains Purchased By Alliance - 1927	311
Term Of Parish Committee Members Changed - 1928	312
Request In Will Of Sarah E. Wilson - 1928	312
Return Of Rev. Mr. Shurtleff After Leave Of Absence - 1929	313
Emma And Charles Forbush Fund Established - 1930	315
Carlisle's Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary Celebration Sponsored By Laymans League 1930	316
Resignation Of Rev. Alfred D. W. Shurtleff - 1930	320
Death Of Parish Clerk - 1931	322
Increase In Rent Of Union Hall - 1931.	322
Public Lecture On Town Zoning Sponsored By Laymans League - 1931	323
Union Christmas Service And Tree - 1931	325
Supper Served At Woburn Association Conference - 1932.	328

Rev. Joseph T. Mac Carthy - 1931-1932	330.
Rev. Frederic W. Smith, 1932-1936	330
Change In Conference - 1934	331
Grand Piano Presented First Religious Society ¹⁹³⁴	332
Report Of Alliance Work At Parish Meeting - 1935	332
Church Council Formed - 1935.	333
Founders Of Church Honored - 1935.	333
"A New England Church" - 1936.	337
Annual Turkey Supper And Dance - 1936.	337
Resignation Of Rev. Frederic W. Smith - 1936.	339
Rev. John B. W. Day, Pastor, 1937-Dec. 1938.	340
Silk Flag Of Commonwealth Presented - 1937.	341
Invitation To Bedford Church - 1937.	341
Church Land Boundary Controversy Settled - Assent Of Parish To Compromise - 1937.	342
Common Improved By Town - 1938	349
Rental Of Union Hall - 1938 Union Hall Not To Be Sublet	350
Church Painted - 1938	350
Resignation Of Rev. John B. W. Day - 1938	351
Union Church Service On Memorial Sunday - 1938.	352

Union Memorial Sunday Services Discontinued By Vote Of Congregational Church - 1939	353
Lectures Sponsored By Laymans League 1937-1939	359
First Religious Society Sunday School Reorganized - 1939.	361
Parish Vote Of Appreciation To Alliance - 1939.	364
Repairs At Church - 1939	365
Vote That Society Be Incorporated - 1939	365
Joseph H. Junta, Minister, Fall, 1939 - Spring, 1942	367
The Wayside Pulpit - 1939	368
Church Stair Carpet Hooked By Ladies 1939 - 1940	368
Pewter Offering Plates Given - 1940	371
Church Interior Redecorated - 1940	372
Church And Sunday School Picnic - 1940	373
New Members Admitted - 1941	373
Parish Treasurer Resigned - 1941	374
System Of Pledge Cards And Envelopes Adopted - 1941	375
Insurance On Church And Organ - 1941	375
Ordination And Installation Of Joseph Howard Junta - 1941	376

Quiren Well On Church Land - 1941	377
Organ Recitals - 1941	380
Sunday School Concerts And Pageants 1941-1942	380
Two Projects Sponsored By Rev. Mrs. Junta 1941-1942. The Boys Club - The Litchfield Club.	383
Rev. Joseph Howard Junta - Chaplain On The Navy - 1942	385
Descendant Of Donors Of Church Land Christened - 1942	386
John Kindig Findly, Minister, 1942	386
Reception To Mr. and Mrs. Findly - 1942	388
Church Choirs - The Junior Choir, 1943	389
New Hymnbooks Purchased - 1943	390
Theology Of The First Religious Society, 1780 - 1943.	391
Hymn By Ralph Waldo Emerson - 1833	393
Members Of The First Religious Society - 1943	394
Ministers Of The First Religious Society, 1780 - 1943	398
Members Of First Religious Society As Found In Parish Records From 1832 - 1943	401

Epilogue

412

Topics in "Carlisle Its History and Heritage" Which Relate to the First Religious Society and Its Background

415

The Separation of Town and Parish
by Ruth C. Wilkins

417

On Union Services Carlisle Mass. by
Rev. Burton Goddard - 1939

428

A Statement of Position by Mrs.
Benson F. Wilkins - 1939

434

The First Religious Society
The First Parish Church
Carlisle, Mass.

The assembling together for public worship in Carlisle has been, according to record, a matter of importance and established custom since 1754, and deeply concerned the inhabitants from the earliest days of settlement here. In fact, the establishment of the district and town came about as a result of the desire of the people to have a more accessible place of worship. This located not only the religious but the civic center as well - interests which in those days were inseparable.

The Second District of Carlisle, whose records contain the only account of the first religious society while it was a town church, was organized in 1780, nearly fifty years after the settlement of this vicinity. We know, however, that through all of those earliest years, the settlers had persistently given their earnest efforts toward securing and maintaining public worship in their midst.

First Attempt To Establish Religious Center In
Carlisle, Unsuccessful - 1754

The first attempt of the settlers here (then belonging to neighboring towns) to establish their own religious center was inaugurated in 1754. The petition of the Inhabitants of the Northerly Part of the Town of Concord to "The State and General Court" that they be set off a separate District "by Reason of their being Remote from the place of Public worship of God"

All references to the First District of Carlisle (1754-1756) will be found in the first few pages of the first Record-Book of Carlisle. Records of the Second District (1780-) will be found in the same book, reversed, and references to those and all subsequent Town records will be here designated by book and page.

was granted on April 19, 1754.

On May 21st at the second meeting of the "votable Inhabitants" of the First District of Carlisle the first Article in the Warrant was "To see what method they will Comen to Perfix a Place to set a Meeting House for the Publick worship of God amongst us." This question continued to be of paramount importance at the frequent District meetings which were held during the next two years.

Among the sites considered were "the most Convenient Place on St. Jonathan Buttrick Plain now in his possession"; "the most convenient Place on the poplar Hill"; "the Pussing ground in Mr. Abishai Browns Pasture a Little Northerly of Mr Joseph Flagg's"; and "on the Easterly corner of Deacon Ephraim Browns Land near Capt Jonathan Buttrick land." Votes were taken and rescinded, committees chosen, and debate was long and fruitless. A Committee from without the District, invited to advise in the matter, recommended Poplar Hill as a site, but no agreement could be reached.

Although the inhabitants of the First District of Carlisle were unable to agree on building their Meetinghouse, it is interesting to note that they meanwhile made arrangements for preaching. At a meeting Jan. 27, 1756, it was voted "That the District will have six Days Preaching in sd District as soon as can be Procured on Lords Days voted that the Preching be won halfe of the time at Deacon Ephraim Browns the other halfe at Mr Ephraim Smith in sd District voted & made Choice of Mr Joseph Adams & Deacon Ephraim Brown & Mr John Green to be a Committee to procure said Preching."

At a meeting of the District the next month, Feb. 3, 1756, money was appropriated to finance the preaching. It was "voted to Raise five pounds for Preaching a mongst us."

Finally, "apprehending the utter impossibility of ever coming into any further agreement for setting up a House for the Publick worship," the District petitioned the Great and General Court to be "Return'd Back to the Town of Concord with all their former Priviledges," and this was done in January, 1757.

Opposition To Dissolution of First District of Carlisle

Although the District voted to be returned to Concord, there was a minority vigorously opposed to this procedure. At a District Meeting at the house of Mr. John Green (previous to the petition to the Court) "on Monday the Ninth Day of August Current (1756) at Four of the Clock in the afternoon," the only article in the Warrant was "in answer to the request of: Jonathan Blood David Blood Jacobus Green Nathaniel Taylor Jur Joseph Taylor Mr John Hartwell David Farlin Joseph Farlin James Russell Leonard Spaulding Timothy Wilkins John Green Jur James Russell Jur." It was "To see if the District will agree to Dissmiss the Committee that was Chosen at a Meeting at Mr David Whittakers for to Petition the Great and General Court to be Laid back to the Town of Concord."

This article was "Passed in the Negative," and the First District of Carlisle was dissolved but unquestionably the feeling of the dissenters for a conveniently located Meetinghouse remained strong.

Land For Carlisle Meetinghouse Shown by
Timothy Wilkins - 1758.

Less than two years later, on July 1, 1758, Timothy Wilkins, one of those actively opposed to abandoning the First District of Carlisle, deeded land for the erection of a Meetinghouse as follows:

"To all People to whom these presents shall come,

Greeting.

"Know ye that I Timothy Wilkins of Concord in the County of Middlesex and Magesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England yeoman; for and in consideration of the love and regard that I have for the public worship of God and the good of my neighbors and fellow-creatures especially the persons hereafter mentioned & named viz. Mr. John Green John Green Jr. Frances Blood John Fletcher Nathaniel Taylor Junr. Solomon Andras Timothy Wilkins Jr. Stephen Blood Jeremiah Andras Isaac Wilkins Joseph Taylor Pecheus Green Elizabeth Spaulding all of Concord in the County of Middlesex and Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and Thomas Spaulding Job Spaulding Jonas Robens John Kidder Jonas Keyes John Spaulding the 3d all of Chelmsford in County and Providence aforesaid, and James Nicless Abraham Shrent Nathan Munrow John Henery Henry Foster all of Billerica in the County and Province aforesaid. I have therefore freely fully and absolutely give grant and convey and confirm unto the persons above written their heirs executors administrators and assigns forever for the convenancy of building a Meetinghouse for the public worship of God, and other public uses, one acre and a halfe of upland,

Drake: "History of Middlesex County"
Volume 1. Page 361

lying in Concord aforesaid, lying South-
westerly from my dwelling house in
Concord bounded as followeth -

There follows a description of the
land and the usual legal assurances
and concludes - "In witness whereof
the said Timothy Wilkins have hereunto
set my hand and seal this first day of
July 1758. In the thirty first year of his
Majesties reign George the Second &c

Timothy Wilkins (seal,
Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of us
Nathan Green,
Samuel Green"

The original of this deed may be
seen, framed, in Gleason Public Library, and
a copy of it in full will be found in Bull's
History of Carlisle on page 134, in the Chapter
on Ancient Documents.

It is thought that at the time
the deed was made Timothy Wilkins
probably lived in the house now (1942)
owned and occupied by Miss Caroline
E. Hill, on East Street.

First Meetinghouse In Carlisle Erected - 1758.

On the land which had been given for
that purpose, a Meetinghouse was erected before
winter of that same year, 1758. The date is
found in a petition presented to the General
Court on "the 19 day of March anno Domini
1760," in which fifty inhabitants of Concord,
Acton, Chelmsford and Billerica petitioned to
be set off "into a District or a town" in part as
follows -

"That we your petitioners living very
remote from Publick Worship of God in the
several towns to which we Respectively Belong,
and in the Winter time Cannot possibly attend

Drakes "History of Middlesex County"
Volume 1 - Page 361.

The Publick Worship of God with our families have for these several winters hired preaching beside paying our proportionable expence where we belong and have the Fall Before last Erected a Meeting Hous for the Public Worship of God and have had preaching in Said Meetinghouse for the most part of the time ever since where we and our families can much more comfortably attend and the Charges of building Meeting Hous and hiring Preaching besides paying to our Respective Towns are very great and heavy on us ---" The petition was unsuccessful, but it establishes the fact that the first Meetinghouse was erected in the fall of 1758, and was at once put to use.

The building "was a rude structure 30 x 40 feet, without finish, outside or inside, and furnished only with rough benches for seats and a table for a pulpit." The Meetinghouse stood just north-west of the present one, and was erected by voluntary contributions from 76 families who would be included in the proposed bounds of Carlisle. It was designed to accomodate the grantees and their families and others who lived too far from the usual places of worship in their respective towns to conveniently attend.

The First Parish Meetinghouse - 1758-1780

For the next twenty years there was no settled minister, yet preaching was supported by the attendants who undoubtedly were also still taxed the regular minister rates in their respecting towns. Rev. Daniel Bliss of Concord, one of the most distinguished clergymen of his day, often preached here, and once in August, 1764, the celebrated English

Town Records - Book 1 - Page 9.

preacher, George Whitefield it is said preached from the south door top of the Meetinghouse to an audience too large to be accommodated inside the building.

It was from the portals of this Meetinghouse tradition tells that on the morning of the 19th of April, 1775, nineteen men, called together from the neighbouring hamlets by the drum of Timothy Whittier and the horn of James Kemp, started for Concord under the direction of Lieut. James Russell and Samuel Heald to join in the fight at the Old North Bridge, and to pursue the retreating foe.

The First Religious Society - 1780.

In this first historic Meetinghouse too was held the first meeting, May 8, 1780, of the Second District of Carlisle composed of "the Inhabitants of the Extream parts of the Towns of Concord, Acton, Chelmsford and Billerica (who) have for many years laboured under great Difficulties and Inconveniences by Reason of their Remoteness from the Places of Publick Worship in the Towns to which they Respectively belong & have Supported the Cost & Charge of preaching for several years past..."

These people who had been maintaining their Meetinghouse erected by their own efforts and contribution, and supporting preaching therein, were now freed from religious taxes in the towns to which they had belonged. Not only was their financial burden of "minister taxes" lightened but since they were organized as a District they were now able to conduct the administration of both civil and

Town Records . Book 1. Page 11.

Town Records - Book 1. Page 12.

Document in Care of Town Clerk -
See also Page 84 - This book -

religious affairs as a legally established group or society.

At their first District meeting, May 8, 1780, called "to Chuse such Officers as are necessary to manange the affairs of the said District the ensuing year" the people "Voted for Tythingmen Mr Nathan Munroe and Lieut Sachar Andrews."

Immediate plans were made to "supply the District with Preaching" and to raise money to "support the Gospel."

It becomes evident that the actual organization of the first religious society in Carlisle coincided with the organization of the Second District of Carlisle on May 8, 1780, and its parish records form an inseparable and important part of the District and Town Records for fifty-two years.

The name "First Religious Society" was not used in the early District Records. Since in the entire District everyone accepted and supported the Meetinghouse and its affairs under provisions of existing laws, no need for a particular designation appeared. The building was known as "the Meeting-house" and its parishioners as "the Congregation."

At length, however, came the withdrawal of some of the Congregation to worship in other societies. In April of 1824 the Town Clerk and Assessors in Carlisle received a notice from the Clerk of the Baptist Society in Chelmsford giving the names of fifteen persons, belonging to that Society "inhabitants and resident in the town of Carlisle" who withdrew at this time from the Town Church, the first religious society in Carlisle, to worship in the newly-formed

Page 103. This book.

Town Records. Book 6. Page 19

" " " Page 80

Baptist Society in Chelmsford. Then in 1828 some twenty or more members of the Carlisle Church became dissatisfied with religious affairs as then administered by "The Congregation," and they subsequently withdrew to form the Trinitarian Society in Concord. Thus it became evident that the Town Church could no longer function as such, and now arose the necessity of designating by name "The Congregation," which no longer included all of the inhabitants.

For the next three and one half years Town meetings held for the consideration of religious matters were called separately instead of in connection with other Town business as formerly. Warrants for these meetings were addressed in various ways, but always now to those remaining in the Congregation and thus qualified to vote in religious matters, instead of to all the voters.

A warrant in June 1828 was "to all the inhabitants of said Carlisle qualified by law to vote in Town affairs (who have not signed off nor do not belong to any other religious society)" — and one in November, 1830, was to "all the inhabitants of said Carlisle who belong to the Religious Society in said Town, qualified by law to vote in parochial affairs." The account of this latter meeting in the Town Records begins "At a legal meeting of the members of the first Religious Society in Carlisle." Thus it was that the Congregation in the Meetinghouse in Carlisle began to be referred to in the Town Records as that

Town Records. Book 6.

Town Records. Book 1. Page 17.

which it indisputably was, "the First Religious Society."

This had become the accepted designation in the Town Records by February 1832, when Parish Records of this First Religious Society were first kept separately from Town Records. From now on too, the Meetinghouse was known in the Town Records as "the first Religious Society's Meetinghouse," or "first Parish Meetinghouse." At various times different words were capitalized in the names of Society and Church, but the designation in Town Warrants and Records from this time on remained the same.

Thus we find that the first religious society in Carlisle existed as a Town Church from 1780 until 1832. Following that time the same group of people (minus those who had withdrawn in 1824 and 1828) continuing to worship in the same Meetinghouse were known in the Town Records and in their own Parish Records as "the First Religious Society" and their place of worship as "the First Parish Meetinghouse."

Clause For Preaching And For Improving Meetinghouse 1780

At a second District Meeting June 1st 1780, the inhabitants gave immediate attention to further matters pertaining to the Meetinghouse. They voted and chose Mr Joseph Munroe, Capt Israel Heald and Mr Isaac Wilkins a Committee "to take care and supply the District with Preaching the year ensuing," and "voted to raise the sum of Two Thousand Pound to support the Gospel the year ensuing." It is interesting to note that inflation was evident at this time. The sum of £2000 which was equal

to \$10,000. for the support of the Gospel, was not as large as it would seem. We are told that at this date \$100. in gold or silver was equal to \$4000. in bills.

Later in the District Records appear two orders which show that the Committee chosen above, fulfilled their duty and procured ministers for the pulpit. On January the 5: 1781, was an order to pay "to the Committee viz / Capt Israel Heald and Isaac Wilkins / the sum of one Thousand Pounds to enable them to answer their Engagements to those they have Employed in Preaching". Again Februaryth 28: 1781, Zebulun Spaulding, District Clerk, by order of the Selectmen issued to Capt Samuel Heald Treasurer, an order to pay "to Mr Isaac Wilkins, out of the money Raised to Support the Charge of Preaching the sum of Seven hundred and thirty one Pounds twelve shillings and three Pence to enable him to pay those who have been Preaching for sd District"

At the same District Meeting in June, 1780, the voters also made plans to improve their Meetinghouse. It was "voted to build the Body Seats and Ceil up the meetinghouse as high as the bottom of the windows as soon as may be." Mr Thomas Spaulding Capt John Green Stephen Blood Junr Mr Phinehas Blood and Samuel Green were appointed to carry out this work and were empowered to mark out the new ground. The sum of one Thousand Pounds was voted "to be applied towards finishing the Meetinghouse."

Members of the First Religious Society - 1786.

The First Religious Society in Carlisle from the earliest days of the District was carried on, supported, and its affairs

Town Records. Book 1. Pages 35 and 37.
The amount each person is taxed for
polls, real estate, and personal property
may be found in the Town Record Book
but lack of space prevents copying the
entire sheet here -

were administered by all the voters until 1824 and 1828. A "minister tax" for religious expenses was levied on all property holders and voters of the District and all matters pertaining to the Meetinghouse, its services and its ministers, were decided by vote of the entire District.

There is included here the list of those supporting the Meetinghouse and its preaching. These people and their families formed the "Congregation" of the First Religious Society in 1780.

It is interesting to know that in these early days the Constables' duties included collecting the taxes as well as notifying each household of District meetings. Two Constables were chosen each year - one for the East side and one for the West side of the District. The dividing line was the road going north and south from Chelmsford to Concord (Essexbrook Rd. over the hill was then the road to Concord). Each Constable was given a list of people from whom to collect taxes on this side of the District. The first of the two following groups of names were on the list given to Timothy Wilkins, Constable for the East side of Carlisle, and the second group were on the list belonging to Simon Barrett, Constable for the West side of Carlisle.

"This following Rate or Assessment was made by the Subscribers the Eighth day of November A.D. 1780 for the purpose of Supporting the Gospel in the District of Carlisle and for Repairing the Meeting House in said District the Present Year (East Side)

Capt John Green
 Zachariah Green
 Mahan Green

x Note: Cort was evidently an abbreviation for "Cornet." I am told that it is not used in the U. S. Army as a title, but was used in some places in the Revolutionary War. The "Cornet" was the officer who carried the standard in a company of Cavalry, and the word was surely in use as a military title in this vicinity - Bedford, Carlisle, and Concord.

Lieut Asa Green
 Wid Elisabeth Green
 Cor^t Stephen Blood
 Stephen Blood Junr
 Simon Blood
 Cor^t Phinehas Blood
 David Blood
 Jonathan Blood Junr
 Simon Blood Junr
 Phinehas Blood Junr
 Thomas Hodgman
 Abijah Hodgman
 Lieut Zachar Andrews
 Edmond Andrews
 Lieut Nathaniel Parker
 James Nickless
 John Nickless
 John Nickless Junr
 Levi Parker
 Ebenezer Hardy
 Nathaniel Hutchinson
 Timothy Wilkins
 Isaac Wilkins
 Timothy Wilkins Junr
 Lieut Jonathan Spaulding
 Thomas Spaulding
 Job Spaulding
 Samuel Spaulding
 Zebulun Spaulding
 Jesse Spaulding
 Joseph Spaulding
 William Spaulding
 Jonas Spaulding
 Lieut David Parker
 David Parker Junr
 Henry Foster
 Timothy Crosby
 Wid Sarah Flint
 Amos Flint
 John Parlin
 Timothy Wilkins guardian for Rob^t Blood

Jonathan Blood
 Henry Flint
 Capt Abram Andrews
 Abram Brown
 Oliver Kemp
 Jacob Kemp
 John Brown
 Thomas Wood
 Daniel Wheel
 Amos Nutting
 Joseph Perry
 John Lemen
 John Foster
 David Wetherbee
 Wid Lydia Carr
 Joseph Nixon

and 23 non-residents who owned property here,

(West Side)

Leut. James Russell
 Samuel Davis
 Ensⁿ David Farlin
 David Farlin Junr
 Josiah Farlin
 Nathan Farlin
 Oliver Farlin
 Ensⁿ John Hartwell
 Simon Hartwell
 David Hartwell
 Simon Hartwell Junr
 Capt Grael Heald
 Leut John Heald
 Nehemiah Wheeler
 Judah Wheeler
 Jamson Wheeler
 Oliver Wheeler
 Joseph Munroe
 Nathan Munroe
 Joshua Munroe
 Aaron Munroe

Capt Nathan Benjn Munroe
 Samuel Heald
 Samuel Heald
 Josiah Heald
 David Dickinson
 John Robbins
 John Robbins Junr
 Jonathan Robbins
 Jonas Robbins
 Gershom Heald
 John Henry
 John Henry Junr
 Nathaniel Taylor Junr
 Christopher Barritt
 Simeon Barritt
 Patrick O'neel
 Jonas Munroe
 Samuel Green
 Edward Brown
 John Chambers
 Capt Jonas Parker
 Samuel Wheeler Junr
 Joseph Doctes Wheeler
 Wid Sarah Farlin
 Joseph Munroe Junr
 John Crosby
 Samuel Doctes
 Jonas Bateman
 Asa Farlin
 Hugh Smith
 Gershom Wheeler
 Paul Lamson
 Ephraim Robbins
 (and 22 non-residents owning property here)

The above one hundred and
 fourteen people, with their families, were
 resident contributing parishioners of the
 Trist Religious Society in 1780.

History of Concord and surrounding towns
By Lemuel Shattuck - Page 331-

"Records of the Church of Christ in Carlisle"

The Church Of Christ In Carlisle - 1781.

Within the first religious society was a group which organized the following year on February 28, 1781, as "The Church of Christ in Carlisle". Because the Church of Christ records were later deleted, it is impossible to know the exact functions of the organization, but apparently its members arranged for Communion and accepted or rejected other members. The Church of Christ was not the first religious society, but its members were a small part of the Congregation of the Carlisle Meetinghouse, and were entirely dependent on the larger group to which they belonged, for the operation and administration of religious affairs. It was the larger group, the entire First Religious Society, which financed religious worship, arranged for preaching, chose tything men, set the hours for worship, remodelled and repaired the Meetinghouse which they had originally built (even before they were a District) and who later, after it was burned, built the present structure - in short, supported, attended and maintained worship in the Meetinghouse at Carlisle.

The Church of Christ, which was a group within the First Religious Society for approximately fifty years, (Following disension over calling a pastor in 1828, 11 Church of Christ members withdrew - leaving behind the same number, who remained in the First Religious Society, but apparently did not continue their separate organization after the separation of Town and parish in 1832) was organized February 28, 1781 as follows:

"We the subscribers apprehending ourselves called of God to form ourselves into a chh state, in order to our enjoying his word and ordinances, do for that purpose, tho' we own ourselves unworthy to be so highly favoured and privileged of heaven, yet humbly depending upon the unmerited grace of God to assist and

help us enter into the following covenant with God and one another!

1. Professing our faith in the sacred scriptures as given by inspiration of God we engage, in dependence upon the gracious influence and assistance of the glorious head of the Chh. to make them the rule and standard of our faith and practice: and for the preservation and promotion of peace and good order among us we will adopt and submit to that mode of discipline, which is observed by the regular churches of New-England, of the congregational persuasion, so far as the same shall appear to us consistent with the holy rules of the gospel.

2. We recognize the Covenant of grace in which we acknowledge ourselves professedly devoted to the fear and service of the great and glorious God, and to the Lord Jesus Christ, the high priest, prophet and King of his' Chh.; unto whose conduct we submit ourselves; thro' whom alone we hope for grace and glory; and to whom we bind ourselves in an everlasting covenant never to be broken.

3. We give ourselves up one to another in the Lord, resolving by his help to treat each the other as fellow members of the same body; to walk in brotherly love together and to watch over one another for mutual edification; to subject ourselves to all the holy administrations appointed by him who is the head of the Chh. and to give our constant attendance upon all the public ordinances of Christ's institution, walking orderly as becometh saints.

4. We acknowledge our posterity to be included with us in the gospel covenant, and look upon ourselves as obliged to

devote our infant offspring to God in baptism, and thanksgiving to God for his goodness, in including our children with us in the same covenant we promise with the greatest care and diligence to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"5. We do furthermore promise to be careful to our utmost to keep up all the ordinances of God among us, and to admit to our communion all such, as dwell among us, who shall desire to join themselves to us, if in a judgment of charity we can be satisfied they are qualified therefor; and also to walk in all regular and due communion with other churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now since we have thus bound ourselves to God and one another, may the good Lord pity us, pardon our frailties, and humble us out of all confidence in ourselves; may the grace of Christ, which is sufficient for us, be afforded unto us; and may he, who is the great shepherd and bishop of souls, lead us into the paths of truth and righteousness for his name's sake and at the last receive us all to his heavenly kingdom. Amen.

We the subscribers assent to the above covenant, and do, in testimony thereof, hereunto set our hands this 28 day of February 1781.

Nathaniel Taylor &
 Elisabeth his wife
 Joseph Munroe
 John Green &
 Maria his wife
 Phineas Blood &
 Sarah his wife

Joshua Munroe &
 Ruth his wife
 Elizabeth Chase
 Agness Foster
 Mercy Munroe
 Abigail Parlin
 Rebecca Heald
 Jonathan Spaulding
 Thomas Spaulding &
 Mary his wife
 Job Spaulding &
 Lydia his wife
 John Robbins &
 Sarah his wife
 Mary Robbins
 Marilla Barnett
 Sybil Robbins
 Sarah Parlin
 Susanna Heald
 Sarah Wheeler
 Sarah Parlin
 David Dickerson &
 Persis his wife

The first officers of the Church of Christ
 were Thomas Spaulding, Moderator; Jonathan
 Spaulding, Scribe; John Robbins, Timothy Wilkins
 and Joseph Munroe fur to set or tune
 the psalm in times of public worship; and
 Capt Sam^l Heald Phineas Blood to read the
 psalm or hymns at such times.

The following method was adopted for
 the admission of new members into the
 fellowship.

"When any person shall manifesta
 desire to be admitted as a member of this
 Chh the person shall be requested to give
 a written relation of his or her religious
 experiences at the time of being publicly
 propounded; and that the person appear
 before the Chh, at such time as the Chh

shall think proper, previous to the admission of the person, in order that they may have opportunity to examine for their satisfaction as to the particulars contained in the relation which the person shall have made at the time of having been propounded; or as to any other particulars which they may think proper."

"Provided nevertheless, any person shall chuse to make a verbal relation the person may have the liberty of doing it either before the Chh only, or before the whole congregation, as most agreeable to the person."

After the articles of covenant and the signatures, follow the records of a few meetings and an account of the ordination of the ordination of Rev. Paul Litchfield. The last entry remaining in the records is dated May 9, 1782, and is a part of the confession of faith (adopted from the Westminster Confession of Providence) which was unanimously accepted and adopted by the members on the above date.

The Record Book of the Church of Christ, still in the possession of the First Religious Society, has unfortunately been mutilated by having all pages containing writing, after the first twenty, cut from the book. Tradition tells that this offense occurred after the dissenters left the First Religious Society in 1828 or 1829, taking with them these records and other property. When it became apparent that legal right to these records and furnishings belonged to those who had remained and had not signed off, the dissenters were forced to return what they had taken away. It is said that the missing pages were cut from the Record Book before it was returned.

Town Records - Book 1. Page 77

Town Records. Book 1. Page 77

The First Pastor of Carlisle Called 1781

The first settled pastor of Carlisle was called and settled in 1781. The first article in the Warrant for a District Meeting on May the 25: 1781, was "to see if the Congregation in the District of Carlisle will join with the Church of Christ in said District of Carlisle to give Mr Paul Litchfield a Call to be our Gospel Minister".

It was "Voted on the first article in the warrant that the Inhabitants of Carlisle bring in their Votes / such as were for giving Mr Paul Litchfield a Call to settle / yea & such as was not for giving him a Call bring in nay. Voted to join with the Church in giving Mr Paul Litchfield a Call to settle in the District of Carlisle as a Minister of the Gospel by 43 yeas & there was only 3 nays."

The District further "Voted to Chuse a Committee to Lay before Mr Litchfield the Proceeding of the District referring to their giving him a Call to settle with them. Chose for sd Committee Capt John Green Thomas Spaulding David Dickinson Isaac Wilkins & Lieut Isachar Andrews."

The matter of Mr. Litchfield's salary was also settled in District meeting. It was voted to give him "one hundred fifty pounds lawful silver money as a settlement or other currency equivalent thereto in case he accepts the Call" and to pay him one half the sum in one year from the time of acceptance and the other half in two years. It was further "voted to give Mr Paul Litchfield Eighty Pounds a year yearly of Lawful silver money or other money Equivalent thereto so long as he shall supply the Pulpit in sd Carlisle and remains their gospel minister." Later, on September 3rd of that same year, 1781, it was voted to alter the action in regard to his salary

Town Records Book 1 Page 97

Town Records - Book 1 - Page 98 - 2ly

Town Records - Book 1 - Page 99 - 2ly

Town Records - Book 1 - Page 146

"and as the Vote was to pay him in silver money or Paper money equivalent thereto, now Voted to pay him his salary the sum formerly granted him in silver money only." At this meeting it was also voted to pay the salary quarterly, and to give Mr. Litchfield twenty cords of wood a year.

At another District Meeting, September 23rd, 1781, in response to an article, "To see if the District will consent to keep Mr Litchfield two cows and a horse and pay his House rent for the Interest of his Settlement till such times as there may be a place to be purchased to accommodate him," it was "Voted to keep Mr Litchfield two Cows and a horse till such times as he calls for the Interest of his settlement." No mention is made in the recorded vote of house rent, but in some way that must have been arranged for later, in the District Records there is an authorization by the Selectmen to pay Mr Isaac Wilkins three pounds three shillings "for keeping Mr. Litchfield's horse sixteen weeks and half and to find him house room six months from the time he was ordained." Since it is recorded that Rev. Mr. Litchfield purchased property from John Henry on April 19, 1782 almost six months after he was ordained it seems probable that at the end of the six months period for which house rent was paid to Mr Isaac Wilkins, Mr. Litchfield went to live on his own property. That house which became home for the rest of his life has been known through the years as the Litchfield Parsonage and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Fish.

The Rev. Paul Litchfield was born in Scituate, Mass., March 12, 1752, the first

Town Records - Book 1 - Pages 99 & 100

of twelve children. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1776 and after studying Theology with the Rev. Dr. Stephen West of Stockbridge Mass. was licensed to preach. He had supplied other pulpits before coming to Carlisle to begin his ministry here at the age of twenty-nine.

That Mr. Litchfield must have supplied the Meetinghouse pulpit to the satisfaction of the inhabitants for some little time prior to their inviting him to settle here, is evidenced by a paper in his own handwriting dated March 30, 1781, a month and a half before he was called - "March the 30-1781 Received of Mr Isaac Wilkins Three hundred & forty eight pounds, in part for preaching at Carlisle - Paul Litchfield"

Ordination of Rev. Paul Litchfield, Nov-7, 1781

The subject of ordaining Mr. Paul Litchfield was taken up at a District Meeting on October the 3: 1781, and money was appropriated by the District for the expenses of the ordination. At this meeting, on an article "to see if the Congregation in Carlisle will join with the Church of Christ in Carlisle in the choice ministers to ordain Mr Paul Litchfield or act on the article as they shall think proper," it was "Voted to join with the Church in sending to those Churches that the Church Voted to send to. Voted in addition to the former Vote and voted to send for Mr Spring of Newbury Port."

The second article was "to see how much money the District will raise to provide Entertainment for the Council to ordain Mr Litchfield or act on the article as they shall think proper; and it was "Voted that

From "Records of the Church of Christ in Carlisle"

The Charge of Entertaining the Council be paid out of the money raised to support the Gospel." Also it was "Voted that Mr Stephen Blood Junr should Entertain the Council and Receive Nine pounds therefor according to his own offer."

It was "Voted to join with the Church in appointing the day for the Ordination of Mr Paul Litchfield and agreed on the Seventh day of November next for that purpose."

On November 7, 1781, Rev Paul Litchfield was ordained first pastor at the Meetinghouse in Carlisle. Following is a copy of records of the Ordaining Council

Carlisle Nov. 7, 1781
"Agreeably to the request of the Chh of Christ in Carlisle made in their letter missive; The following Churches of the number sent to were represented by their pastors & delegates at the house of Mr Stephen Blood namely, the pastor and delegates of the 2^d Chh in Medway, of the Chh in Franklin, of the Chh in Abington, of the Chh in Westford, of the Chh in Ashby and pastor only of the North Chh in Newbury-Port. The question was then put to the Committee of the Chh in Carlisle whether they chose the pastors and delegates collected should proceed to ordain Mr ^{Paul} Litchfield if found qualified, over them as a pastor."

The Committee replied, yes.

The question was then put ~~again~~. The above mentioned pastors and delegates would form into Council. It was voted to form.

"The Rev David Sanford was chosen the Moderator, and the Rev Samuel Spring, the Scribe of the Council. The cai. of the Chh and District were asked for: - and it appeared

The towns, in parentheses, are not
found in the Church record, but were
taken from the account of the
ordination in Bull's History of Carlisle -
Page 174.

Town Records. Book 1. Page 121

That they had conducted regularly.

Mr. Litchfield's answer was then requested, and read before the Council. The Council then asked the pastor elect to read his confession of faith, and he readily complied. The Council then proceeded to examine him as to his sentiments particularly in divinity; and relative to his experimental knowledge of God and Christ; and views in undertaking the office of a pastor. And the Council are happy to say they find him in a judgment of charity, qualified to desire the public office of a Minister of Christ. And accordingly voted unanimously, to proceed to ordination. The appointment of the exercises of the day was in the following order - The Rev. Mr. Scribner (Westford) to make the introductory prayer - The Rev. Mr. Niles (Abington) to preach the sermon - The Rev. Mr. Ermons (Franklin) to make the prayer during the imposition of hands - The Rev. Mr. Sanford (Medway) to give the charge - The Rev. Mr. Spring (Newburyport) to give the right hand, and the Rev. Mr. Whitman (Ashby) to conclude by prayer.

A true copy of the minutes of the Council.
Attest. Samuel Spring Scribe

Thus with proper dignity and ceremony, was ordained the first minister of Carlisle.

Vendue of Pewground at Meetinghouse - 1781

With their minister duly called and settled, the parishioners immediately turned their attention again to the Meetinghouse, where there was still much to be done. At a District meeting on November 19, 1781, they voted to sell the Pewground at a public Vendue to the highest bidder, and chose Mr. Phineas Blood, Capt. Samuel Heald, Jebulian

Town Records - Book 1 - Page 90

Spaulding Capt Israel Heald & Capt John Green & Committee to sell the pew ground at the Meetinghouse on Tuesday the twenty seventh Day of November - the Money pledged to be paid "one half in six months the other half in nine months and if not then paid to be on interest till paid"

Carlisle November 27: 1781

The following is a Record of the Vendue appointed by the District of Carlisle for the Purpose of Selling the Pews in the said Carlisle Meetinghouse, and Cornet Phinehas Blood being appointed Vendue master Proceeded as followeth viz -

Pew: No: 1:	Sold to Lieut Nathaniel Parker for -	52	dollars
Pew: No: 2	Sold to Stephen Blood Junr for -	37½	
Pew: No: 3	Sold to Capt Samuel Heald for -	27	
" " 4	" Ephraim Robbens for -	32½	
" " 5	" Zebulum Spaulding for -	61½	
" " 6	" Jonathan Blood for -	40½	
" " 7	" Capt John Green for -	31½	
" " 8	" John Robbens Junr for -	38	
" " 9	" Sergt Simeon Barritt for -	49	
" " 10	" Lieut Peter Dunbar for -	18½	
" " 11	" John Robbens for -	15	
" " 12	" Stephen Blood Junr for -	23½	
" " 13	" John Robbens for -	43½	
" " 14	" Timothy Wilkins for -	40	
" " 15	" Lieut Nathaniel Parker for -	33	dollars
" " 16	" Stephen Blood Junr for -	57½	
" " 17	" Phinehas Blood Junr for -	36	
" " 18	" Ephraim Robbens for -	66½	
" " 19	" Lieut John Robbens for -	42½	
" " 20	" Samuel Green for -	49½	
" " 21	" Lieut Nathaniel Parker for -	40½	
" " 22	" Zebulum Spaulding for -	26½	
" " 23	" Jonathan Heald for -	39	
" " 24	" Isaac Wilkins for -	49½	
Number of Dollers		950½	half

Town Records. - Book 1 - Pages 158 and 159 - 3ly

Town Records. Book 1 - Pages 158 and 159 - 3ly

Town Records. Book 1 Page 105 - 2ly and 3ly

Town Records Book 1 - Page 282

It would seem from the records that the people were expected to build their own pews, or to finance their construction and had purchased only the "ground" or "room" for them. At a District Meeting January 24, 1783, there appeared an article "to see if the District will vote that those persons who bought the pews shall have the advantage of their money if there be any left besides furnishing the Meeting house to help build sd pews." It was "Voted That if any of the money be left that the Pew-ground was sold for besides furnishing the Meetinghouse it should go towards building the pews."

Further Improvements At Meetinghouse - 1783:

Plans for further work at the Meetinghouse were continued at the above District Meeting in January 1783. "What was then proposed to be done more toward or on the House than what was already done was to paint the Pulpit Canopy Breastwork Pillars and posts below the Galleries & put on the two windows the Backside the House and mend the others." A Committee consisting of Capt Phineas Blood, Samuel Green, Zebulon Spaulding, Capt. Samuel Heald, and Lieut John Robbens, was chosen January 14th to provide materials to finish the Meetinghouse and workmen to do the work, so that the above changes were no doubt completed under their supervision.

Shortly after this a Door Stone was installed according to an order of April 24, 1786, to pay Capt. Samuel Heald the sum of twelve shillings "to enable you to answer Mr Benjamin Dalls account for a stone for a Door Stone to Carlisle Meeting House."

Town Records. Book 1 - Page 187

Town Records. Book 1 - Page 207 - 7ly

Town Records Book 1 - Page 166 - 10ly

Seating The Meetinghouse - 1783.

We are told that it was the custom in earlier days to arrange the seating of the Meetinghouse in such a way as to give the most desirable or prominent locations to those who were accorded priority because of age, rank, or prestige. The following vote at a District Meeting on September 17/1783 shows that this custom of the times was observed in Carlisle. "Voted to do something about Seating the Meetinghouse. Voted to Chuse a committee to Seat the Meetinghouse. Voted to Chuse three persons for the Committee above sd. Voted to ad two more to sd committee Voted and Chose Capt Israel Heald Mr Samuel Green Lt Issachar Andrews Lt Asa Green and Mr Asa Farlin to serve as the Committee aforesaid. Voted the Meetinghouse be Seated according to mens age & pay."

The following April 5th (1784) the Committee were called to account for evidently having neglected to fulfill their instructions. It was "Voted that the Committee appointed to Seat the Meetinghouse do their duty in that affair."

Stabling For Horses" - 1783

Those who drove from a distance to the Meetinghouse now made plans for the shelter of their horses during the long hours of worship. At a District Meeting on March 3rd, 1783, the tenth article in the Warrant read "At the Desire of Capt John Green and others to se if the District will give Liberty to build Stabling for horses on the South Side of the Land given for the Meetinghouse privilege or at some other place of sd Land that may be agreed to." The Meeting chose Mr Phineas Blood,

Town Records. Book 1 - Page 169 - 10 ly

Town Records. Book 3 - Pages 298 and 301 - 16 ly

Town Records. Book 1 - Page 195 -

Mr Samuel Green and Mr Timothy Witheris a Committee to stake out the ground for building the Stables.

There are no further details given about erecting the Stables but evidently it was done for at a District Meeting Twenty years later on March 7, 1803 in response to an article "to see if the District will request the owners of the Horse Stables Standing South of the Meetinghouse to remove the same to some other place" it was voted that "Asa Farlin Esqr Jonathan Heald Esqr and St Ezeckiel Nickles be a committee to request the owners of the horse stables to remove them to some more suitable place and make reports at April meeting upon what condition they will remove the same" The report of the Committee does not appear in the Records at the April meeting or at any future time.

Hours of Worship - 1784.

The first record of the hours of worship was made in 1784. At a District Meeting on January 22nd it was voted that "it be their minds that the Exercise of Publick worship on Sabbath days begin at the Meetinghouse at one quarter after Ten of the Clock in the morning from this time till the first Sabbath Day of April next and the Intermission between the two exercises be one hour - - - from the first Sabbath in April next to the first of November following the exercises to begin at Ten in the morning and the Intermission to be one hour and half - - - from the said first of November next to the first of April following the exercise begin as above said at one quarter of an hour after Ten

Town Records. Book 1. Page ~~281~~ 166}- 10 ly
169}

" " Book 1. Page 281.

in the morning and the intermission to be one hour." The District Clerk was instructed to serve Mr. Litchfield with a copy of this vote.

Sabbath Day House - Noon House. 1786-1788.

It was the custom in early days to have a small house or one room structure erected near the Meetinghouse by families who came from a distance to worship. This was for their convenience and that of their friends, at noon between the two church services, and was called a "Sabbath Day House" or "Noon House."

In some towns we are told that this building consisted of a shed to shelter the horses, and a room above where the people could spend the time between services, a place to eat their lunch and to warm themselves in winter after the long service in an unheated church. We know that Carlisle had a Sabbath Day House and a Noon House, but while the buildings are not described in the Records, it is the opinion of older residents that they were one-story structures. This seems probable in view of the fact that "stabling for the horses was provided in 1783."

The first reference to such a building in the Records is found under date of 1786, and is included in the description of a district way, as follows:

"Carlisle February
The 8th 1786

"A District Road laid out by the subscribers on the day above said being a short piece of way a little Northwest

Town Records. Book 1- Pages 364 and 366.

from the Meetinghouse where it is now-
traveled Bounded as follows viz begin-
ning at a birch tree market near the
Road leading from sd Meetinghouse
to Mr Aaron Munroes from thence North-
easterly to a small pitch pine tree market
from thence continuing the same course
to Deacon Ephraim Robbinses Sabbath
Day House said Road is laid out two
Rods wide to the southeasterly side
of said Bound, to be an open way.

Jonathan Heald
Simon Blood Junr

The above Road was accepted at the
annual District Meeting on March
The 6th 1786"

It seems possible that the
road described above is that section of
Concord Street from Church Street to the
Center since the road "leading from
sd Meetinghouse to Mr Aaron Munroes"
refers to what is now Church Street and
this "short piece of way" was "a little
Northwest from the Meetinghouse," as
it then stood and its general course
was in a northeasterly direction.
But whether or not the road describ-
ed was a section of Concord Street
the fact is here established that in
1786 Deacon Ephraim Robbins had
a Sabbath Day House not far distant
from the Meetinghouse.

Two years later permission was
given for the erection of another such
house. At a District Meeting March
The 30 1788 on an article "To see if
the District will give liberty to Capt
Issachar Andrews and St. Jekulum Spaulding
to build a House on the Meeting House
Lott for their Convenience on Sabbath

Days" it was voted "That Capt Issachar Andrews and Lt Zebulun Spaulding have liberty to build a house on the Meeting House Lot." It was "voted to chuse a committee to appoint the place where," and Mr Samuel Green Mr Timothy Wilkins Junr and Lt Isaac Wilkins were chosen.

Mr. Edward Fisher of Lowell in his extensive study of old deeds connected with the boundary between the "Meeting-house Lot and the Mac Dougall property (now Combs) located this house known in the old deeds as "The Noon House" as follows - "The exact location would seem to be opposite the northwesterly portion or corner of the barn, adjoining what is the southerly side of the Mac Dougall land, with apparently a portion extending over the same which location I have marked on the plan in red ink." (At this time the southerly boundary of the Meetinghouse property was close to the Mac Dougall house so that entrance to the barn was over Parish land. Since that time the First Religious Society has agreed to Land Court proceedings whereby they relinquished the land in front of the barn. See page 342.)

We have no means of knowing when the Sabbath Day House was removed but the next reference in the Town Records to the Noon House is at the time of its removal in 1837. I have been told by older residents who in turn were told by previous older people, that the small ell on the western side of Charles S. Taylor's house was moved into its present position a great many years ago, and that it

formerly was a tiny house which stood between the Wheel Tavern or Long Block and the home of Mrs. Daniel L. Chamberlin. I have wondered if this could have been "Deacon Ephraim Robbinses Sabbath Day House" referred to above, but have nothing but its size, apparent age and former position, on which to base my conjecture.

Town Records. Book 2. Pages 64 and 66.

Town Records. Book 3. Page 82.

Town Records. Book 2. Pages 155 and 156 - 4 ly

Arrangements For Seating Singers 1789 and 1798

The first arrangements to aid and encourage singing in the services were voted in 1789. At a meeting of the District on March 2, 1789, an article was in the warrant "To see if the District will agree to provide any seats in the Meetinghouse for those who may be disposed to set together for the purpose of singing-- It was voted that those who may be disposed to set together for the purpose of singing shall have the two hind seats below."

Later their seats were changed in 1798 at a District Meeting on April 2nd. When a vote was taken to vendue pew ground which was not already sold, it was also voted to sell the singers' seats. At the same time provision was made to give them "the fore seat and the second seat in the front gallery."

Posting Warrants at Meetinghouse - 1790.

Until late in the year 1790, it had been necessary for the Constable to whom a warrant for a District meeting was addressed to personally notify the voters. At a District Meeting on October 4th of that year in response to an article "To see if the District will agree that all District Meetings or any particular Meetings for the future may be warned by posting up a Copy of the Warrant at the Meeting House or some other public place or act on the article as they may think proper" it was voted "that the Annual Meetings in March and April be warned for the future by posting up a Copy of the Warrant at the Meeting House in said Parish as long time before the Meeting as the

Town Records Book 2. Page 155-

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 178

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 35- 6ly

Town Records. Book 6. Page 25

Town Records. Book 6 - Page 408

Law requires Notice to be given "

The change agreed upon was immediately put into effect. At the close of the above ~~Warrant~~ ^{as formerly} the Constable, Amos Blood attested, "In obedience to the within warrant I have warned and endeavoured to give notice to all the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the District of Carlisle who are qualified to vote for a Representative and in Town affairs to appear at the time and place for the purposes within mentioned." At the close of the next Warrant on record, that for the Annual March Meeting to be held March 7, 1791, he attested to the changed method "In obedience to the within Warrant I have posted a Copy of this Warrant at the Meetinghouse and one at the House of Mr Timothy Wilkins Junr Freeholder in Carlisle."

Later, in 1797 another attempt was made to have all District Meeting Warrants posted at the Meeting House and it was voted on April 3rd that the Annual May Meeting be warned in that manner. Being able to post the Warrant instead of notifying the inhabitants individually, must have lightened the Constables' duties appreciably, but it was still some time before notice of any except the regular meetings was given in this way.

Much later in 1828 it was voted, "That Warrants for Town Meetings posted at two public places in said Carlisle fourteen days shall be considered legal warning for all Town Meetings in future" but it was not until 1843 that our present custom of posting the Warrants seven days previous to the Meetings, was adopted.

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 264 - 11 ly

Town Records - Book 2 - New Ground Plan on Page 9

Town Records. Book 2 - Pages 295 and 296 - 3 ly

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 269.

Gallery Pew Ground Sold - 1793

At the Annual District Meeting on March 4, 1793 it was voted to sell the Pewground in the "Gallery in the Meetinghouse" on the first Monday of April next at four o'clock in the afternoon at Vendue to the highest Bidder. St. Isaac Barrow Mr Henry Flint and Mr Benjamin Barrett were chosen a Committee to mark out and sell the Pewground. The following sheet which is a record of the sale is copied from the Town Records.

At a District Meeting December 30, 1793, on an article "To see if the District will appoint some person or persons to take the money or security for the Pewground in the Gallery in the Meetinghouse which has been sold and empower the person or persons then appointed to give security of said Pewground --" it was "Voted that the Selectmen (Asa Parlin, Simon Blood, Capt. Jonathan Heald) be a Committee for the purposes therein mentioned."

(Note: On Apr. 2, 1798, further pewground in the gallery was sold - act. on page 44)

Meetinghouse Shingled - 1793

About this time it became necessary to have the Meetinghouse shingled. At a meeting of the District on the first day of April, 1793, the day of the above Vendue of the pews, it was voted to have the shingling done "as soon as conveniently may be." Asa Parlin Mr. Samuel Green and Capt. Jonathan Heald were chosen a committee for the purpose of providing materials and shingling said Meetinghouse, and it was voted to raise the sum of thirty pounds for repairing the Meetinghouse, the "money to be assessed immediately and paid in within three months."

It seems certain that this Committee attended to the shingling at once, for four

Town Records. Book 2 - Page ~~275~~ 4.

A plan of the Pew ground in the gallery in Carlisle
Meeting House Sold at vendue April
with an account of the Sale.

37

1793

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

The Pew ground in the gallery in the Meeting House Sold as follows

	L.	S.	P.
No. 1 To Benjamin Barrett at	5	0	0
No. 2 To James Nickless at	2	12	0
No. 3 To James Nickless at	2	10	0
No. 4 To Benjamin Barrett at	2	7	0
No. 5 To Dea ⁿ Ephraim Robbins at	2	1	0
No. 6 To Fradrick Blood at	3	2	0
No. 7 To Benjamin Barrett at	1	13	0
No. 8 To Henry Flint at	5	3	0
No. 9 To Capt. John Heald at	2	4	0
No. 10 To Zebulun Spaulding at	2	3	0
No. 11 To Benjamin Barrett at	2	1	0
No. 12 To Dea ⁿ Ephraim Robbins at	2	2	0
No. 13 To Amos Blood at	3	1	0
No. 14 To Jonas Spaulding at	1	16	0
No. 15 To Benjamin Barrett at	4	0	0
No. 16 To Benjamin Barrett at	3	14	0
No. 17 To James Kemp at	3	5	0
No. 18 To Dea ⁿ Ephraim Robbins at	3	3	0
No. 19 To Lt Nathaniel Parker at	6	12	0

Total £ 58:12:0

No. 8	No. 9	No. 10	No. 11	No. 12	No. 13	No. 14
-------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

NB No. 20 & 21 were sold in 1798

No. 20 for \$5:0

No. 21 for 4:67

Town Records, Book 2 - Page 275

months later under date of August the 26th 1793, appears an order "To Mr. Samuel Green Treasurer or Successor in that office. Sir please to pay out of the Districts money raised to repair the Meeting House the sum of thirty pounds, one shilling to Lieut Daniel Wheat to satisfy him and enable him to satisfy Mr Benjamin Barlett for repairing the Meeting House agreeable to their obligation also pay to him twenty shillings and ten pence for his engaging to save the District from paying any interest on the above sum which they was to pay in case said money was not paid at the time agreed upon and also for his engaging to be accountable for the sum total of the Rate list made to repair the Meeting House and to loose all he shall not collect of said list and this shall discharge you for said sum. Total 31:1:10
By order of the Selectmen
Asa Farlin District Clerk "

Simon Blood's Donation - Ministerial Lot - 1793.

In the will of Mr. Simon Blood, Junr who died Nov. 7, 1793, appeared this item -
"I give unto the District of Carlisle aforesaid a Lott of woodland lying in said Carlisle near Mr. Timothy Wilkines bounding partly on said Wilkines land and partly on Capt Samuel Heald's land and partly on Land of David Blood said Lott to be kept for a Ministerial Lott for the benefit of said District and no more wood to be cut on said Lott yearly than to supply the Minister." After mentioning other bequests (which included to the District also the sum of one hundred pounds the interest of which was to be spent for the support of schooling) the will stated that

Town Records. Book 2 - Pages 295 and 296 - 1ly and 2ly.

Town Records, Book 2 - Page 306 - 11ly

"all the Remainder of my Estate Real Personal or mixed which I shall die seized of not herein before disposed of be divided to each one within named in the same proportion as what is particularly mentioned to be given them." Since there proved to be a surplus after the bequests were satisfied, therefore an added sum was apportioned not only to the School fund but also to the "Ministerial Lott."

The next month after Mr. Blood's death, at a District Meeting on December 30, 1793, "agents" and "trustees" in connection with the Blood bequests to the District were chosen. Deacon Ephraim Robbins Capt Jonathan Heald and Lieut. Zebulun Spaulding were chosen "agents to act in behalf of said District relative to any Disputable matters respecting the Estate of Simon Blood Junr. late of Carlisle deceased and respecting any Demand upon said Estate which may appear to be Disputable or act anything respecting the matter which they may think proper." On an article "to see if the District will chuse some trustees of Mr. Blood's Donation and give them any Instructions or pass any votes respecting the matter which they may think proper when met" it was voted to "chuse" two trustees of Mr. Blood's Donation and Lieut. Zebulun Spaulding and Capt Samuel Heald were chosen. It was also voted that the trustees "Precept the Executor for the money given for schooling when they receive it and that they let the money out upon interest and be careful to take Sufficient Security for the same and to pay out the Interest which they shall receive on said money as the District may hereafter give Directions."

Instructions relating to the woodlot were given the trustees in April 1794. At their meeting March 30, 1794 an article "To see if the District will give the Trustees of Mr. Blood's

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 312 - 2 -

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 390.

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 390

Town Records. Book 1 - Page 213 - Last order -

Donation any Directions respecting the woodlot given to the District," was put over to the April 7th meeting. At that time it was "voted that the Trustees of Mr. Bloods Donation prosecute any person or persons who have or shall commit any trespass on the wood Lott Given to the District by Mr Simon Blood Junr deceased." It was further "Voted to leave it Discretionary with the Trustees respecting cutting wood" for Mr. Litchfield on the Ministerial wood Lott. That the woodlot with the restrictions in regard to its use was more often a care rather than the help which its donor intended, is apparent from the occasional attempts made through the years to acquire legislative permission to sell it. The first of these efforts took place about two years after the donation was received. It was voted on November 23, 1795 "That the Trustees of Mr. Bloods Donation petition to the General Court in behalf of the District for liberty to sell the Ministerial wood lott given by Said Blood to the District." We know that this was not accomplished although there is no record of the result of this vote.

At the same District Meeting in 1795 it was "Voted that Mr. Litchfield get his own firewood if he will get it for eight shillings per cord." Previous to the bequest of the "Ministerial Lott," sometimes Mr. Litchfield was paid extra money in lieu of firewood. There is on record an order dated February 12 1785, for his quarterly salary due the last of that month and "also to pay to him the sum of five pounds to satisfy him for the twenty cords of fire-wood the District should provide for him this present year." Following the acquisition of the woodlot, the usual plan was to vendue the getting of Mr. Litchfield's wood. In 1798, it was "Voted that the getting

Town records. Book 3 - Page 90 - 2ly -

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 90 - 3ly

Town Records: Book 3 - Pages 34 and 35 - 10 ly.

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 361 - 4 ly

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 389 - 2ly

Mr. Litchfields wood up be vendued to the lowest Bidder the wood to be got on the "Ministerial Lott" It was also provided "that the Interest of that money which was drawn by the Ministerial wood Lott" (the surplus dispensed after all bequests were satisfied) "go toward getting up Mr. Litchfields wood."

District Ammunition Stored at Meetinghouse - 1797

It is of interest to know that the ammunition belonging to the District was stored in the Meetinghouse in the early years. In the warrant for a District meeting April 3, 1797 the 10th Article was "To see if the District will take some method to secure their stock of ammunition and call upon those who have had any of the District powder to replace it." It was voted "that the Selectmen make the floor into the upper part of the Meeting House as fast as they can and that they call upon those persons who have Borrowed any of the Districts powder to replace it also voted that they call upon all who have had any of the Districts powder to replace it."

Changes And Improvements at Meetinghouse - 1795-1798

During the years 1795, 1796 and 1797 it was voted to make several changes in the exterior of the Meetinghouse, and some inside the building in 1798.

At a District Meeting on April 6, 1795, Lieut. Zebulun Spaulding, Mr. Benjamin Barritt and Capt. Samuel Heald were chosen a Committee "to provide materials to Clabboard the Meetinghouse" and on November 12th of the same year it was voted that the same Committee "do also provide window frames

and one cup of ore

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 390 -

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 420 -

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 33 - Last order

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 41 - Last order

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 39 - First order

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 39 - Fourth order

if they think it necessary and that they employ some person or persons to clabboard said House and make new floorheads and windowheads and to repara the Glass and sashes if necessary". At the same time it was voted "to underpin the Meetinghouse and "to let out out the getting Stones and underpinning the Meetinghouse to the lowest bidder on Monday evening after Thanksgiving (it being the twenty third Instant) at Mr. Timothy Wilkins in Carlisle". The meeting was adjourned to that time when it was voted that Lieut. Jephthah Spaulding, Mr. Timothy Wilkins Junr and Capt. Samuel Heald be a Committee "to agree upon the bigness of the Stones to underpin the Meeting House".

The Committee chosen evidently proceeded to arranging for the underpinning of the Meetinghouse for there are orders on record showing that payment for the work and stones was made to various people. On February 4, 1796 Mr. Timothy Wilkins was paid for "the underpinning of the Meeting House". (It is impossible to tell the amount received for that particular service since the order, for \$8.68, also included pay for "entertaining the Selectmen when in public business and for Licquor at the Vendue of the poos and Mr Litchfields wood"). The next year, April 19, 1797, John Clives also was paid (\$3.00) for stones provided to underpin the Meetinghouse; Mr. Simon Wheeler on October 30, 1797 received \$3.61 for Carting $33\frac{3}{4}$ feet of stone from Acton "to underpin the Meetinghouse"; and Mr. Tradick Blood on October 7, 1797 was paid \$2.11 for carting $19\frac{3}{4}$ feet of stones from Acton "to underpin the Meeting House". On October 10, 1797 Mr. Reuben Wheeler received \$3.26 "for his carting Thirty

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 432 - 6ly

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 433 - 9ly

Town Records. Book 2 - Page 441 - 2ly

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 41 - 1ly

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 76 - 5ly

feet and an half of Stones from Acton to underpin the Meeting House.

At the Annual Meeting April 4 1796 it was "voted that the money which the pew ground in the gallery was sold for be expended towards repairing the Meeting House," and also "That the Selectmen collect said money as soon as may be." At the same time it was voted to build two porches to the Meeting House and to build the tower at the west end of the Meeting house. At a later meeting of the District on May 5th 1796, further action was taken in regard to the porches. It was "voted to build a low Porch at the front doors of the Meeting House and to leave it discretionary with the Committee to build either a low or high Porch at the east end of said House." It was further voted that the Committee previously appointed to "Clabboard" the Meeting House be a Committee to get a Tower and Porches built and that they "let out the same to such persons or persons as will build them the cheapest, notice of their being let out to be posted up at some public place in the District four weeks before they are let out and the same to struck off to the lowest bidder to be finished to the acceptance of said Committee." On October 10, 1797 it was "voted to have two doors to each of the end Porches one at the end and the other at the South Side and a window at the back side and one run of Stairs in each Porch;" and "to give Lieut. Wheeler Six Dollars more for finishing the Porches to the Meetinghouse agreeable to the last vote than he was to have by the first agreement."

It would seem as if the "run of stairs" in each porch was to take the place of the gallery stairs for at a ^{District} meeting March 5, 1798, was an article to see whether anything more should be done to the Meeting House.

Town Records. Book 3 - Page 78 - 5 ly.

Town Records. Book 3 - Front of book -

and to see "whether they will have the old gallery Stairs took away." It was "voted to sell the old Gallery Stairs and the Ground where they stand with some ground at the top of said Stairs in the gallery," and "that when the Stairs and the ground where the Stairs stand are sold it be made a condition of Sale that in case the purchaser take away the Stairs he shall arch over where the Stairs stand in uniform with the underside of the side gallery and also plaster the wall against where the Stairs stand and not injure the Pews adjoining."

More Gallery Pewground Sold - 1798

At the District meeting in March, 1798 it was voted to sell the Pewground in the 'gallery which was not owned by some person and "to sell the ground where the two hind seats are upon the floor of the Meeting House for Pews." It will be remembered that these were the seats previously allotted to the Singers, but provision for them was made by a vote on April 2, 1798 that "the Singers have the fore Seat and the Second Seat in the front gallery." Following is the account of the Pewground sold at this time -

Pewground Sold in Carlisle Meetinghouse

April 2, 1798 -

- | | |
|---|-------|
| No 26 adjoining Nathaniel Parkers Pew | # C |
| struck off to said Nathaniel Parkers one half for Asa Berlin the whole at | 35:0 |
| No 27 adjoining St. Zebulun Spauldings Pew struck off to Capt. Timothy Neale for St. Phineas Wheeler at | 36:0 |
| No 28 adjoining Mr Nathan Greens Pew struck off to Mr. Timothy Wilkins for one half for John Jacobs at | 35:50 |

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 175 and 176 - 3ly

No 29 adjoining Mr. Jonathan Bloods Pew Struck off to Mr Simon Heald at	34:0
No 30 at the Southeast corner of the Meetinghouse Struck off to Capt Stephen Blood for Asa Hartwell at	5:75
No 31 at the Southwest corner of the Meetinghouse struck off to Amos Flint at	5:25
No 8 in the Gallery Struck off to Lt. Daniel Wheat for James Russell Junr at	12:0
No 6 in the Gallery struck off to Mr. Frederick Blood at	8:25
No 20 in the Gallery between No 7 and No 15 Struck off to Alexander Neef for Thomas Hodgman at	5:0
No 21 between No 14 and No 17 in the Gallery struck off to Nathan Hayward at	4:6.7
Nov 1798 No 13 in the Gallery sold to Nathan Green at	4:33

Bulletin Board Erected - 1808

With the Meetinghouse repaired and remodelled and the Pewground attended to, there seems to have been no need for further changes in the structure for some time. One later addition outside the building is worthy of note. With a certain number of warrants and no doubt other papers and notices being posted at the Meetinghouse, in 1808 the voters arranged to have installed a suitable place for such documents. At the May 2nd Town Meeting (Carlisle became a Town Feb 18, 1805) appeared an article "To see if the Town will agree to have a post set up with a box in which to put papers which are necessary to be set up at the Meetinghouse and appoint some person to provide the same." It was voted "that said post be white oak six inches square to be set two feet (+) into

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 253 and 254 - 20

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 261 and 262 - 2ly

The ground and to be six feet above the ground. The box to be two feet one way and eighteen inches the other and ten inches in depth with a glass 12 by 16 inches with a door to cover the said glass and a lock and key to secure the same. The getting of said post and box according to the above description was vendued and struck off to Nathaniel Hutchinson for at two dollars & twenty five cents.

Hours of Worship Changed - 1810

Early in 1810, after consultation with Mr. Litchfield the time of service was changed slightly. No mention is made of the "Intermission" this time as in 1784, so that probably the second service had now been discontinued. Worship was to begin from the first Sabbath in April till the first Sabbath in October at half past ten o'clock in the morning, and from then till April again at eleven o'clock.

Meetinghouse Burned - 1810

That same year, 1810, just after the people at a Town Meeting on April 23rd had voted to "repare the windows in the upper part of the Meetinghouse and also provide weights for the inside doors and have them fixed against the ensuing winter," disaster befell this old Meetinghouse which had been the place for the "Publick worship of God amongst us" for fifty-two years. It was struck by lightning and entirely destroyed on the 26th of May, 1810.

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 264

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 284
" " " 297

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 305 & 308. Page 329. Order No. 6

" " " Pages 312 - 315 - 263

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 265 - 9 ly

" " " " " 277 - Order 46

Planning and Construction of New Meetinghouse, 1810-1811.

The inhabitants of Carlisle, with courageous promptness and persistence, met on the Common "near where the Meetinghouse formerly stood" on June 4, 1810, a little over a week after the fire, to make plans for rebuilding their Meetinghouse, and to provide a "place for the people to meet for public worship until said house shall be erected."

At this first Town Meeting it was decided to erect a Meetinghouse near where the former one stood and to build it "in the Modern form and as near the likeness of the old one as is convenient to accommodate the pew ground." Capt. Nathan Haywood was chosen to procure a plan for a Meetinghouse and present it at the next meeting.

It was also arranged at this time for the Selectmen to provide a place to meet for public worship. It is recorded that during the time Carlisle was without a Meetinghouse, worship was conducted at the homes of John Green and James Kemp. At least one Town Meeting was held at Mr. Kemp's, and others at "Mr. Isaac Blaisdell's wheelwright shop." In warm weather Town Meetings (and possibly Sunday Services although there is no record of that) were held "on the Common" and as construction progressed, "on the Common near the new Meetinghouse."

The plan for a wooden building which Capt. Haywood presented at an adjourned Town Meeting on June 25th was accepted, and Capt. Haywood received \$13.50 "for his services in procuring a plan for the Meetinghouse" and "also as a Committee man in said Business." Each person, individually or as a member of a Committee who performed some duty during this time was requested to present a bill for services "at the next meeting."

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 265-266.

Town Records. Book 4. Pages 268 and 270 - 5 ly

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 300 - 12th

" " " Page 265 - 7 ly

" " " " " - 9 ly

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 310 - 3d

Asa Farlin Esq., Thomas Heald, and Capt. Nathan Haywood were to advertise and receive proposals for building the Meetinghouse either of wood or brick, and Asa Farlin Esq., Capt. Nathan Haywood, and Nathan Green Jr. were appointed to "stake out the ground whereon the Meetinghouse shall be erected." The report of the latter Committee was accepted, the "said Committee having established the southeast corner where said house shall be erected and the building to stand north and south and the Cupola to be at the west end."

When preparing to build the new Meetinghouse, it was voted to have the nails and other iron that were picked up after the Meetinghouse was burned "sold in small lots when Mr. Litchfields wood is let out to be got for him." It was further voted "to take the pound to fill up where the Meetinghouse is to stand."

Although a Committee was chosen to receive proposals for a building of "wood or Brick," under a later article at the same meeting, Capt. Haywood's plan for a "wooden Building" was accepted and all subsequent arrangements were for a wooden building. At the same adjourned Town Meeting on June 25, 1810, it was voted "that the Meetinghouse be finished in the tuscan order and to be painted inside and outside with two coats of good paint and to have the whole completed in one year from the first of November next." Further details about the painting were decided at a later Town Meeting when it was voted "the outside of the Body of the Meetinghouse be painted a light Straw Colour and the raised worke to be white," that "the roof be painted a chocolate Colour," "that the doors be painted mahogany colour," and

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 266.

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 297 and 298 - 9 ly -

"to leave it with the Committee what collours to have the inside painted."

At subsequent Town Meetings during the summer and fall, some alterations in proposed plans were made. The following report of Asa Farlin Esq., Mr Thomas Heald, Frederick Blood, Nathan Green Junr. Capt. Nehemiah Andrews, Berj. Barrett and St. Daniel Wheat, a Committee "to see what alterations may be made in the plan of said house and to consult about selling the pews, was accepted:

"The Committee have agreed that it is best to alter the pulpit and have the stairs on the back side and to have two additional pews also that it is best in the room of the two pews marked on the plan at the southwest and northwest corners of the Galleries to erect seats for people of colour. This was later changed by a vote to reconsider the former vote and to agree to the sale of those pews which they agreed to have made into seats for "people of colour", and it was "voted that one pew be appropriated for people of colour and to be the one on the left hand as you are going into the Gallery and the door to swing back against it"

The Committee report continues in part "also that it is best to omit painting the pews and seats and floors and to paint the outside three times over also that the committee, which may be appointed to contract with some person or persons for building a Meetinghouse be authorized to sell the pews before they are built or such part thereof as they can sell to advantage unless the undertaker should agree to take the pews"

Although the above report was accepted,

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 317 -

" " " Page 314

" " " Pages 304 and 305
2ly

" " Book 4 - Page ~~267~~ - 6 ly

Town Records. Book 4. Pages 266 and 267 - 11 ly

" " " Page 318

" " " Page ~~267~~ 5 ly -
266 - 12 ly

" " " Page 266 - 13 ly

" " " Page ~~267~~ - 6 ly -
300 - 11 ly

some further changes were made later. It was voted to paint the outside of the pews and the coping; and also "that the Meetinghouse staves and doors shall be altered - & - in the Best and Cheapest way; and also "that if Solomon Andrews will (before it is too late to be done) agree too and put in one window in the Meetinghouse the Town will agree too and put in one other window." It was suggested that "the Brestwork, Pulpit and Pulpit window may be finished in a more elegant mode than what is directed by the plan" and this was left to the discretion of the Committee. Some at least of these changes were carried out since in the final report of the Committee in charge of building the Meetinghouse there are listed charges for "rebuilding the Gallery Stairs" and "altering the pulpit window" and also expenses connected with "trimming of the pulpit and pulpit window" and for "extra worke in the pulpit and brestwork".

Expenses of building the Meetinghouse were met by taxation and by the sale of pews. It was "voted to raise the sum of two thousand dollars to defray the expenses of Building said house". Later, at a Town Meeting on November 4, 1811, a further sum was appropriated when it was "voted to raise fifty dollars to Decorate the pulpit."

The Assessors were authorized to make a separate tax for the two thousand dollars and it was provided "that all denominations be assessed in said tax". This was later modified to adjust the grievance of those Baptists in Carhile who worshipped in neighboring towns, and also paid a minister rate in the towns where they worshipped. It was at length agreed that they should "pay one half the sum they are assessed in the

Town Records. Book 4. Page 342

" " " Page 281

Town Records. Book 4. Pages 266 and 267-11ly

" " " Page 267-5ly.

Meetinghouse Tax Provided they shall not be at any more expense toward Building or finishing the Meetinghouse which is now proposed to be built and in case the House is used for civil purposes." It seems possible that those attending in Chelmsford may have already paid a large share of their assessment (March 1810) since it was further voted "that those Baptists belonging to the first Baptist Society in Chelmsford may have their money upon their producing a Certificate that they belong there".

From the sale of pews the sum of \$2759.75 was realized according to the Committee's final report. This sum is \$13.25 more than that listed in the "account of the Sale of the pews" and apparently contained that further amount received after the sale. The "Pews" being exhibited by a plan, were sold at public vendue on the 12th and 19th of November, 1810. (See page 57)

The State Tax of \$154.66 for the year 1810 was by act of the General Court remitted to the Town "on account of their Meeting-house being Burned".

Details pertaining to the time when payments on the construction of the new Meetinghouse should be made were likewise settled in Town Meeting. After the appropriation of the two thousand dollars, it was voted that one thousand dollars of that amount be "paid by the first of December next" and that "the other thousand dollars be paid by the first of March next". Later it was "voted that one half the money that the Meetinghouse shall cost more than the two thousand dollars that has already been granted by the town shall be paid by the first of June next and the remainder when said house shall be completed and accepted".

Town Records - Book 4 Page 267

" " " Page 268 - 4th

" " " " 267 - 11th

" " " " 268 - 3d

" " " " 267

Town Records - Book 4 - Page 340

Asa Farlin Esq. Chairman, and Mr. Nathan Green Junr and Mr. Thomas Heald were chosen the Committee "to let out the Meetinghouse and to contract in behalf of the town with those that may undertake it the Least and give good Security for to compleat said house according to agreement." The same Committee was to "prepare the spot to receive the underpinning," contract with some person for underpinning the Meetinghouse, and were "authorised to give deeds of the pews in the Meetinghouse which they have agreed to build to the several persons who may purchase said pews."

The Committee contracted with Elijah Stearns Esq. to prepare and set the Stone Steps and underpinning and with Joseph Wyman ("in the opinion of the Town Mr. Wyman Proposal was a regular one") and John Sawyer Junr to build the Meetinghouse. See page 61

Following is the Committee Report of the Building of the Meetinghouse:

"The Committee appointed by the town of Carlisle to Contract with some person or persons for Building a Meetinghouse in said town and to prepare the spot on which to erect said house, to sell the pews therein and to Inspect the Materials and work for building the same, and to provide Trimming for the Pulpit and Pulpit window etc have attended the service respectively assigned them and report an account of the expences of building said house and of other matters connected therewith to be as follows viz

Expence of work done at the Meetinghouse spot wharfing up and preparing for the underpinning &c — \$71; 58
The underpinning and door Steps which the Committee contracted with Elijah

one of the meeting house Committee from the twenty fifth of June 1810 to the second of March 1812	25:56
To Nathan Green Junr for his services as one of the Meetinghouse Committee untill the second of March 1812	17:29
To Thomas Heald for his service as one of the meeting house committee from the 25 of June 1810 to the 2d of March 1812	20:27
Total #	4866:81

The following sums of money
have been appropriated by the
town to pay the following
expences viz

Money raised by a tax	\$ 2000:00
The amount of what the pews were sold for	275 ^c :75
Money raised for the trimming of the pulpit &c	50:00
Total #	4809:75

Deficiency to be provided for	# 57:06
-------------------------------	---------

all which is submitted by
Nathan Green
Thomas Heald
(Committee)

Lumber for the Meetinghouse was
evidently obtained locally. In response to an
article "to see if the Town will agree to find
the timber for the Meetinghouse on the
conditions which the undertakers" (those who
have undertaken to do the work) "have proposed"
it was voted "that the Committee write to
the undertakers what they may think
proper and that the Town expects them to
vendue the timber in the Town of Carlisle
according to their first Proposal."

Town Records. Book 4. Page 313 - 5th

" " " " 319

" " " " 319

" " " " ~~336~~

Stearns Esqr for fuel was prepared and set by William Stearns -	235:08
The contract made with Joseph Wyman and John Sawyer Junr for Building said house -	4230:00
Extra worke in the pulpit and breastwork -	25:00
for two Pilasters over dome rising. Some other work -	6:00
to Building two pews in the corners of the galleries insted of seats -	2:00
To raising the Gallery windows -	1:50
to rebuilding the Gallery Stairs -	10:00
to altering the pulpit window -	0:50
to puting on some readwork under the upper cornice inside the house -	3:50
to raising the projection floor -	2:00
to puting on window springs -	0:72
to an oval Board to put a date on -	2:50
to altering the ally in the front Gallery -	0:50
allowed on the Settlement for some small matters which were to be done -	0:66
To Interest on the third payment to Wyman and Sawyer -	11:12
to John Page for coming to examine some the work -	0:75
to John Wilkins for whitewashing the plastering -	7:00
to Cash paid for window springs -	6:33
To William Washburn for Liqueur which the Committee had at the time of viewing proposals for Building said house and at the vendue of the pews and at other times -	13:81
To Capt. Ezekiel Nickles for liquors at the Vendue of the pews and for liquors found the Committee	

and those who worked at the meetinghouse spot —	24:47
to John C Wilkins for painting and numbering the pews —	33:33
to painting the oval Board and put- ting a date on it finding —	
Shadleaf &c —	3:50
to Interest on the last payment to Wymann and Sawyer —	4:31
to Blanks for pew sleds —	2:00
to Aaron Fletcher for some work done —	0:25
For the scrapers at the doors and for setting them —	2:63
to some plank and screws found —	0:18
to the use of a scow at the meet- ing house spot —	0:75
to two locks and some other things to fasten the inner doors —	1:85
Interest for money advanced by Nathan Green Junr. not accurately cost but supposed to be —	10:00
For sundry articles for the trimming of the pulpit and pulpit window as may appear by the Bill —	66:96
to Jabez Wilkins for a journey to Boston with horse and chaise to purchase said articles —	3:50
to the wife of James Wilkins for making said trimming —	2:33
To Paul Forbush for work done about the pulpit and pulpit window in order to receive the trimming —	1:34
to some cotton and other articles found about the trimming —	1:24
to Paul Forbush for seating the projection building a desk leveling up the floor —	14:50
To Asa Ballin for his service at —	

Town Records
Book 4 - Pages 268 and 269 - Firstly

The Town by vote provided compensation for local people who helped to clean up around the Meetinghouse. It was "voted" that those persons who have done worke for the Town in fixing the Meetinghouse spot and are owners of pews shall have credit for the same towards their pews and also for paying any other person "that did worke" that is not a pew holder. Further reward was offered in the vote "that the Town give those persons who may go and worke at the Meetinghouse to clear off the chips and trash round the house what drink they may need."

The new Meetinghouse was finally completed and ready for use. At a Town Meeting "on the Common near to the new Meetinghouse" on November 18, 1811 it was "voted that the Meetinghouse be dedicated to Almighty GOD on the second Sabbath in December 1811" and that "John Jacobs be a Committee to wait on the Rev Paul Litchfield and inform him respecting the matter."

Original account
filed with
Town Clerk -

Account Of Sale Of Cows - 1810

Following is a copy of the original report filed by the Committee in Charge of the Sale of Cows -

"An account of the Sale of Cows in the Meetinghouse which the Town of Carlisle have agreed to build which Cows being exhibited by a Plan were sold at public vendue on the 12th & 19th of November 1810 as follows viz

No 1 to Phineas Blood for	\$105:00
No 2 to Thomas Heald at	80:00
No 3 to Nathaniel Parker at	80:00
No 4 to Nathan Green at	68:25
No 5 to Sebulum Spaulding Junr at	60:25
No 6 to Benjamin Foster at	50:25
No 7 to Abel Taylor at	38:75
No 8 to {Nathaniel Hutchinson & Nathaniel Hutchinson Junr} at	107:50
No 9 to Samuel Green at	80:25
No 10 to Samuel Brown at	82:50
No 11 to Lt Sebulum Spaulding at	69:75
No 12 to Capt John Heald Junr at	60:25
No 13 to Ezekiel Proctor at	50:00
No 14 to Silas & Asa Hartwell at	39:00
No 15 to Jonathan Heald Esq at	55:00
No 16 to Samuel Boynton at	47:00
No 17 to Daniel Blood at	49:25
No 18 to Asa Farlin at	44:50
No 19 to William Spaulding at	40:25
No 20 to Tilly Green at	35:00
No 21 to Frederick Blood at	34:50
No 22 to Deac ^r Ephraim Robbins at	51:50
No 23 to Timothy Wilkins at	46:25
No 24 to Abijah Hodgman at	42:50
No 25 to John Green at	43:75
No 26 to Thomas Heald at	40:00
No 27 to Joseph Heald at	35:25
No 28 to Benjamin Barrett at	32:00

Original deed given to Town
by Mrs. L. R. Hinen -

seats were not numbered on the plan but were sold on condition that the Town will agree to the sale

The Pew at the northwest corner
to Capt Nehemiah Andrews at — 29:00
That at the southwest corner to
Solomon Andrews at — 26:00

Galery Pews	\$444:75
Pews below	2301:75
Total	\$2746:50

Copy of Pew Deed - 1810.

A Pew Deed was issued to everyone purchasing a Pew, and consisted of the following form, a printed paper, the part which I have underlined being filled in with pen and ink -

"Know all men by these presents, that we, Asa Farlin, Nathan Green jun. and Thomas Heald, all of Carlisle, in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a committee duly chosen by the town of Carlisle to contract with some person or persons to build a meetinghouse in said town and to sell the pews in said house, the proceeds of the sales to be appropriated towards paying the expense of building said house, did on the twelfth day of November A.D. 1810 sell to Ephraim Folbrius & Benben Duren both of said Carlisle yeomen Pew No 22 on the lower floor in said House for the sum of fifty one dollars and five Cents

Therefore we, the said Asa Farlin, Nathan Green jun. and Thomas Heald, by virtue of the power and authority in us vested

by said town, and in consideration of the sum aforesaid, paid to us in our capacity as Committee, for the use aforesaid, by the said Ephraim & Peuben the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge do hereby sell and convey unto the said Ephraim & Peuben their heirs and assigns forever to them and their use so that neither the inhabitants of Carlisle or any other person or persons shall molest them the said Ephraim & Peuben their heirs or assigns in the use and enjoyment of the same according to the true intent and meaning of these presents or anywise claim the same. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals, in the capacity aforesaid, this sixteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

In presence of
J. Wilkins
Nathaniel Parker

Asa Carlin ^{Seal}
Nathan Green ^{Seal}
Thomas Heald ^{Seal}

Transfer Of Pews In Meetinghouse.

Pews were sometimes transferred or sold by their owners, and in each such instance a deed was passed and duly acknowledged before a Justice of the Peace. Mrs. Rena Clark has sent to me two such deeds preserved in her family. One is dated 1815, when Isaiah Green bought from Solomon Andrews "a certain Pew situate in the Meetinghouse in Carlisle aforesaid being in the southwesterly part of the Gallery and numbered eight." The deed is signed by Solomon Andrews and his wife Sarah, who relinquished "her Right of dower in the premises."

The other deed was executed in 1838, when Isaiah Green purchased "a certain Pew situate in the first Congregational Meetinghouse in Carhile aforesaid being in the Northernly part on the lower floor and numbered Twenty six. This was signed by Benj. F. Proctor and his wife Lydia N. Proctor who also relinquished "her Right of dower in the premises."

Specifications For Building Meetinghouse - 1810.

In H.ason Library collection of historical documents No 212 is an "obligation for building a Meetinghouse". This was an "Indenture made the Second day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten by and between Joseph Wyman and John Sawyer both of Templeton in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Housewrights on one part and Asa Parlin Nathan Green Junr and Thomas Healdall of Carhile in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth aforesaid a Committee for and in behalf of said Town of Carhile on the other part." This is a lengthy document containing much legal phraseology, detailed specifications for the new Meetinghouse and a record of payments by the town.

The following extract from the specifications includes details of the "Tower" which was removed in 1868 when the present spire was erected -
"The whole of the outside to be boarded with good seasoned merchantable -"

boards made straight and free from
 wave the roof boards to be hard pine the
 roof to be and shingled with good
 merchantable fifteen inch shingles which
 shall not be laid more than five inches
 to the weather The gable ends to be pro-
 jected with a double cornice The House
 to be clabboarded with good split white
 pine clabboards which are to be lapped
 sufficiently - The window frames to be
 made of good white pine stuff and to be
 rabbited away to the thickness of the
 pilasters and the boards to be nailed to the
 window frames - The house to be leaded
 where it may be necessary particularly
 a strip of sufficient width to run from
 the ridge pole of the House adjoining
 the Tower as far as the roof joins the
 Tower and to turn round the corner of the
 Tower till it leaves the projection of the
 roof and the beldeck to be sufficiently
 leaded round the eight square posts
 and a piece on the center of the beldeck
 which bel deck is to be well shingled
 with a balustrade round the same
 and the cross beams strapped down to
 the head of the posts The upper eight
 square to be well boarded and clabboarded
 with a window in every other space
 and the clabboards painted in imme-
 diation of blinds - The top of the lower
 eight square to be lathed and plastered
 with a scuttle through the same - The
 top of the Cupola to be sufficiently boarded
 leaded and shingled with a sufficient
 spindle Balls Vane and lightning rod
 The glass for said building to be Boston
 Glass and the glass where set to be
 bedded in putty - The water-tables to be
 plank of suitable thickness and width

and to be set up edgeways The House to be well painted three times over upon the outside - The building boarding shingle-ing clabboarding finishing and painting said House as herein mentioned is meant to include the Tower notwithstanding they may be herein seperately mentioned - V"

Specifications for the inside of the building are just as explicit, and include the following - "The board for the floors to be well seasoned the upper floor to be hard pine - the under floor boards to be straightened and laid tight The floor in the alleys and two floors in the projection to be laid double and the Gallery straightened up with a double floor and the floors in the Pews to be laid double above the first under floor The wall Pews below to be raised six inches and the others three inches The Pews to be seated with a good and sufficient seat and the seats to be hung with butts The other seats both below and in the gallery to be sufficiently studded and capst and the seat to be plank and the back of the seat boarded and the gallery foreseat to be boarded in front The House both below and in the gallery including the projection to be sealed up to the bottom of the windows and the sealing capst The House and projection both the sides & overhead to be lathed and plastered - Two run of suitable stairs to be made in the projection to lead into the Gallery and one run of stairs to the Bell Deck Before the lathing is done the studs are to be furred out over with the posts - All the wood work the inside except the Pews seats and floors to be well

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 336.

Painted twice over — The outside of the House to be painted either white or straw colour that which the Committee may choose if straw colour to be trimmed with white. The Doors to be mahogany colour and the inside such colour as the Committee may agree upon."

Provision for possible alterations in the plans was made. "And each of the parties do hereby further agree that in case any alteration shall be made different from the Plan or what is herein mentioned except the alteration in the Plan voted by the Town on the 21st of September last if such alteration should be more expensive the undertakers are to receive a reasonable compensation if it is less expensive they are to make a reasonable allowance. And in case of disagreement respecting the matter it is to be left to some workman."

First Annual Town Meeting In New-Meetinghouse - 1812.

At the annual Town Meeting, the first held in the new Meetinghouse, March 12, 1812, the second article in the Warrant was again the one which appeared year after year in the same position during the time Mr. Litchfield was pastor, and while the expenses connected with divine worship were taxed on all. Following the article providing for the election of Town officers, provision for divine worship preceded all other considerations, and invariably the second article was "to see what sum of money the town will agree to raise to pay the Rev. Paul Litchfield

Town Records. Book 4. Page 337 and 339 - 17th

" " " Page 339 - 18th

Town Records. Book 4 - Page 346

" " " Page 364 - Order No 39

his salary and to pay other ministerial charges the ensuing year."

At this same first meeting in their splendid new church three matters of immediate importance connected with it were considered. On an article "to see if the Town will take any method to prevent the Meetinghouse being defaced" it was voted "that if any person shall be found to deface the Meetinghouse that the Treasurer prosecute the offender." It was likewise arranged "that the Selectmen provide a box to set up papers in at the Meetinghouse" to replace the first one erected in 1808, which must have proved to be an essential convenience. Although the details were settled a month later, it was at this March meeting that the vote was taken to procure a bell for the Meetinghouse.

Meetinghouse Bell Procured - 1812.

Arrangements for the purchase of the Meetinghouse Bell, voted March 2, 1812, were completed at the April meeting the following month. Mr. Thomas Heald and Mr. Fraduck Blood were chosen the Committee, to procure a "Bell to the Meetinghouse" and the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated for that purpose. There is on record an order to the Town Treasurer, Mr. Nathan Green, under date of November 30, 1812, to reimburse Mr. Fraduck Blood "for his paying Paul Berree and sons for the Bell and also for his time and expenses."

There has been preserved the following letter from the Rev. Paul Litchfield to

The Selectmen of Carlisle, in which Mr. Litchfield offered to make a contribution toward the purchase of the Bell:

"Gentlemen, I embrace this opportunity through you to express my grateful acknowledgment to the town of Carlisle for the respect they have manifested toward me, in having elected me to represent them in the Legislature of this Commonwealth; and avail myself of the same opportunity to signify that it is not my wish to be considered as a candidate for that purpose the year ensuing.

Having understood that the town have voted to procure a bell for the meetinghouse, I hereby engage to pay ten Dollars for that use, provided the bell be procured the present year.

I am, Gentlemen, respectfully yours,
Paul Litchfield

"April 6, 1812

"The Select Men of Carlisle"

Town Records, Book 2 - Page 415 - 3rd Order

" " Book 3 - Page 82 - 4th

" " " " - Page 352

" " Book 4 - Page 62

" " Book 4 Page 07

Care of Meetinghouse and Burying of Dill 1796-1826.
 Soon after the decision to purchase a Bell, regulations were adopted governing its ringing, and also providing for the care of the Meetinghouse and the digging of graves, all by the same person.

Just how the one to care for the Meetinghouse was chosen originally is not clear, but an order appears under date of January 20, 1796 to pay Mr Timothy Wilkins Junr "one Dollar and eighty nine cents for being for his taking care of the Meeting House one year which ended last April." In 1798 it was voted that the Selectmen appoint some person to take care of the Meetinghouse, and under date of 1799 appears the entry "Lieut Daniel Wheat to take care of the Meeting House one year for 15/6 or two Dollars and fifty-eight cents." For the year ending April 1, 1805, James Wilkins received \$1.50 for his taking care of the Meeting House from April 1804 till April 1805.

About this time work in the "burying place" and duties as sexton began to be combined with the care of the Meetinghouse. At the Town Meeting March 4, 1805, it was "Voted to chuse a saxon for Carlisle for one year." "Chose Mr. James Kemp to take care of the burying place and dig the graves for all persons." It was further voted that James Kemp "have the care of the Meeting House after the first Monday of April next."

In 1808 Capt. Ezekiel Nickles was designated "to take care of the Meeting House one year and mow the brush in the burying place twice for \$5.95 and to serve as saxon."

Town Records. Book 4 Page 436

" " " Page 433

" " " Page 432

The year before the old Meeting house was burned "the care and sweeping of the Meetinghouse and the Care of the Burying Ground and to mow the Bush twice and also to serve as saxon" was let out to Isaac Blaisdell at \$3.50.

After the new Meetinghouse was built "the Care of the Meetinghouse from the time we began to meet in it until the first Monday in April" was let out to John Wilkins at \$1.90 (Dec 1811 to April 1812) and from then until the new Bell was hung he was to receive 20 cents pr month.

Then with the purchase of the new Bell we find the following complete set of regulations drawn up governing the Bell, the Meeting House, and "Saxon" duties:

"Carlisle May 28: 1812

Conditions for letting out the ringing of the Bell the care of the Meeting house clearing away the snow in the winter from the doors. and to see to the digging of graves if any shall be needed and to the care of the Hearse" (purchased 1809) "and the Burying Cloot.

The Bell to be rung on Sabbath days and on town meeting day and lectures days and tolled at funerals and on the next morning after any person decease if requested and to be rung as is usual in other towns and the meeting house is to be opened at any time if desired and to be swept all over before every Communion day.

It was struck off to Mr Aaron Fletcher at thirteen dollars until the first Monday in April next.

The ringing of the Bell with its accompanying duties was vendued for many subsequent years subject to the "conditions of 1812," and frequently with

Town Records: Book 5 Page 459

" " " Page 456

"	"	Book 4 -	Page 430
"	"	" "	" 428
"	"	" 5	" 3
		"	468
		"	465
		"	463
		"	4 th page from end
		"	459
		"	457
		"	457
		"	456
		"	456
		"	456

" " Book 5 Page 456

the stipulation that unless the work "be well and faithfully done" no pay should be received. In 1820 the ringing of the Bell was let out on the conditions of 1812 - "with this alteration / the Meeting house to be swept once in each two months, in the first week of the month/."

In 1823 the Belringer was to observe the conditions of 1812 and 1820 and "to dig all the graves and go with the Horse if requested and not to charge in any one case more than two Dollars for that service to be paid by the individual who may employ him."

Following is a list of those who were Belringers during this period:

1813 - Enoch Carter -	\$12.00
1814 - John Wilkins -	12.50
1815 - Enoch Carter -	9.25
1816 - Enoch Carter -	12.73
1817 - Benjamin Foster -	14.70
1818 - Isaac Duren	14.50
1819 - Isaac Duren "he to ^{be to} ^{Barst} if faithful"	8.50
1820 - Isaac Duren	7.87
1821 - Isaac Duren	4.22
1822 - Isaac Duren	7.00
1823 - Isaac Duren	3.75
1824 - Isaac Duren	3.00
1825 - "by Asa Nutting for Isaac Duren"	12.00

It will be seen that Mr. Isaac Duren did this work most frequently and often at a very low figure. Sometimes the bell was rung at noon daily, and sometimes the first six months (from April 1st) at noon, and the next six months at nine in the evening. In 1826 Capt. Aaron Fletcher contracted to do the work for \$14.50, and it was specified that the Bell was "to be rung ten minutes each time."

Town Records. Book 7 Page 381

" " " Page 417-13th

Meetinghouse Interior Completed 1813-1814

The next year after the purchase of the Bell, consideration of some few details in connection with the final completion of the Meetinghouse was necessary.

At a Town Meeting March 1, 1813 it was "voted that the Meetinghouse Committee should call upon him who undertook to paint the walls in the Meetinghouse to do it according to agreement." Again at the March meeting in 1814, it was "voted that the Town Treasurer should see to finishing the trimming of the Desk" in the Meetinghouse.

Town Records. Book 4 - Pages 378 and 381

Town Records. Book 5 - Pages 22 and 36 - 17th

The Common. 1813.

At the Town Meeting, March 1, 1813 was considered the acquisition of land which probably became in part, what we now know as the Common. The inhabitants voted to accept a piece of road laid out from the Meetinghouse lot to the road leading by St. Daniel Wheat's dwelling house, and also chose Mr. Tradick Blood, Mr. Nathan Green, Jur. and Mr. Thomas Heald a Committee "to buy the land around the Meetinghouse within the roads if they can agree with the owners thereof."

There is no record on the Town Books of the action of this Committee, but there are on record two deeds in 1813, whereby the inhabitants of Carlisle acquired land adjacent to the Meetinghouse lot. From Peuben Quen in April, 1813 was purchased for the sum of thirty dollars a strip of land bounding the Meetinghouse lot on the south and west, estimated to contain one half acre more or less. A piece of land containing about six rods and bounding the Meetinghouse lot on the north was purchased from Cyrus Nutting in November, 1813, for the sum of nine dollars.

Land around the Meetinghouse which was included in the original Meetinghouse lot, enlarged by the addition of these two parcels of land, became known shortly after this as the Common. At the March Meeting in 1815 is the first reference in Town Records to "the Common". On an article "To see if the Town will choose a committee to ascertain the bounds of the common around the Meetinghouse" and it was "voted to choose a Committee of three to ascertain the bounds around the common - and chose Capt. Sam. Heald, Mr. Peuben Quen and Capt. Tim. Adams

Town Records - Book 5 - Page 209

" " " Pages 387 and 389

" " " Page 398

for said committee."

The White Oak Tree

Near the Meetinghouse in those days there stood at least one of the old white oak trees which we know were then found in Carlisle. In 1819, article 4 in the warrant for a November Town Meeting was "To see if the town will sell the white oak tree on the common near the Meetinghouse --". It was "voted to have the said white oak tree stand for the present."

For some reason it must have seemed desirable to have the white oak removed, for again in April, 1825, appeared an article "To know if the town will have the white oak that stands on the common cut." This time it was "voted to have the white tree sold at vendue." Following action on the last article in the warrant the inhabitants proceeded to dispose of the white oak tree with the ceremony which they no doubt felt befitted its importance. "Then vendued the white oak tree bid off by Timothy Meek at three dollars. Then voted to lay out \$1.50 in grogg."

Apparently Mr. Meek paid for the refreshments, and later paid 1.50 to the town, the two amounts totalling his bid of \$3.00. A town order in February, 1826, to pay Timothy Meek for work done, concludes "\$1.50 being deducted out of his amount for what was due from him to the town for the white oak tree that grew on the Common."

Town Records - Book 5 - Page 32

" " " Page 42

Parish Records

Parish Records

The Bass Viols.

At the March Town Meeting in 1815, at the request of Tim & Adams Junior an article was placed in the warrant "to see if the Town will buy a bass viol to be kept in the Meetinghouse for the purpose of aiding the singing." Action on the article was put over to the April meeting when it was voted "not to purchase a bass viol."

I have been unable to find any account in either Town or Parish records of the purchase of a viol. However, the following items taken from later lists of Parish expenditures after the separation of Town and parish, show that two such instruments had been acquired and were in use before 1840. On Feb. 17 1834

Stephen Taylor received \$3.33 "for three Viol strings furnished for the use of said Society," and in a list of Parish expenditures from Sept 10, 1838 to March 2nd, 1840 are the following items:

"Pd to J Spaulding for

For repairing the large bass viol .50

" " " small " 3.00

Strings and bow for sd viol 2.50 "

It seems possible that these Viols, probably the first musical instruments to be used in the Church, may have been presented to the Society by one or more persons interested in having them.

Unfortunately, the large viol is gone, sold by the Society May 9, 1885, for \$4.85, but the smaller one, about the size of a cello, is still in the possession of the First Religious Society. Names cut very finely into a part of the instrument are almost indistinguishable now, but it is known that the Viols, one or both, were played by

Town Records. Book 5- Page 77-1st

" " " Page 200-1st

" " " Page 202-1st

Stephen Taylor and James Warren Wilkins.

After being stored for many years in Mr. Stephen Taylor's attic, the remaining instrument was by vote of the Society, put in repair and has been loaned to Gleason Public Library. There it is on display with the Historical Collection where are also housed on loan the old Communion Set and other treasures of the First Religious Society.

Repairs at Meetinghouse. - 1816 and 1819.

The first repairs on the new Meetinghouse seem to have become necessary in 1816. At the March Town Meeting it was "voted & chose Mr Nathan Green Jr for a committeeman to get said house repaired - Voted that said committee should stop the leakage on the Bell Deck and any other place on the roof where the rain may beet in."

"Casing the Posts of the belfry" was considered at a Town Meeting three years later, May 3, 1819. It was "voted and chose Nathl. Hutchinson Jr Esq., Paul Forbush & Jm. Jacobs a comm^{tee} to examine the Belfrey & report respecting what they think ought to be done to it." Apparently the committee made the inspection immediately, for on the same page and line the account continues "They reported that something ought to be done." The Town then voted that the matter respecting said belfry be left discretionary with the Selectmen they to do what they think proper - & that what they do be well done."

Town Records. Book 4. Page 445.

" " " Page 435

" " " Page 449

Mr. Litchfields Wood Vendued.

During the years from 1800 till Mr. Litchfields death, while he sometimes "found" his own firewood, for which the town paid him more frequently the getting of it was vendued. After the new Meetinghouse was built this vendue and that of ringing the "Bell" (and sometimes the "vendue of the poor", when the poor of the town were let out to the lowest bidder to be cared for) were often held at the same time. Following are examples of the results of the venduing of Mr. Litchfields wood.

1804 Carlisle December 10th 1804
The Getting of the Rev Paul Litchfields wood vendued.

Struck off to Job Nickless 5 Cords
at 187 Per Cord \$4:35-

Struck off to Capt Ezekiel Nickless
5 cords at 185- Per Cord \$4:25-

Struck off to Capt Ezekiel Nickless
10 Cords at 187 Per Cord \$8:70
\$17:30

1809 November 27 1809 The
getting of Mr. Litchfields wood was
bid off at vendue by Ensign Jonas Parker
to be cut and carried to Mr. Litchfields
fire ^{and corded} cords oak at 80 cents Per cord
20 Capt Ezekiel Nickless fire cords of
maple at 80 cents
20 Capt Nickless fire cords oak at
80 cents Per cord
20 Mr Asa Green fire cords half
pine and half maple at 76
cents Per cord.

1814 The conditions of getting Rev Paul
Litchfields wood Feb. November 1814 - are
as follows viz - Those who undertake
are to cut it four feet in length and
carry it to his house, or where they

Town Records - Book 5- Page 54 - 4th

" " " Page 466

" " " Page 464

" " " Page 462

and he agree - and there cord the same.
 5 cords maple wood William Spalding fur
 undertook to get, he to receive \$1.00
 per cord \$5.00
 5 cords maple wood also by sd
 Spalding a \$1.00 \$5.00
 3 Do pine Do also by sd Spalding \$2.49
 a .83 -
 5 Do oak Do Undertakes by Reuben
 Green fur he to have 98 cents
 per cord \$4.90

1815 Sometime during 1815, the Town
 evidently experienced a wind of unusual
 velocity. On an article in the warrant
 "to see if the town will agree to buy
 a part or all of Rev. Paul Litchfield's
 wood" it was "Voted to buy such a
 part of Rev. Paul Litchfield's wood as is
 not blown down on the Ministerial lot."

1816 In 1816, three extra cords of wood
 were verdued "to make up Mr. Litchfield's
 wood for last year as he did not have
 but seventeen cords." Also this year only
 part of the wood was to be taken from
 the Ministerial lot that to be procured
 for \$1.00 and \$1.02 per cord. Those who
 were to "find" the wood themselves were
 to receive \$2.50 and \$2.48 for oak, and
 \$2.24 for pine wood.

1817 On December 15, 1817 the Selectmen
 agreed with Rev. Paul Litchfield to "find"
 his own wood for that year and to
 give him two Dollars and twenty five
 cents per cord to "satisfy" him for the same.

1818 Conditions of getting Rev. Paul Litchfield's
 wood Nov 6, 1818. The wood to be cut 4
 feet in length - carried to Mr. Litchfield's

Town Records - Book 5 - Page 461

house or any other place which he and the undertaker may agree upon, & then cord the same before the 1st next March - no timber trees to be cut -

15 Cords of oak wood - I E the getting of it, undertaken by Capt E. Nickles a	#1.00 - per Cord -	#15.00
5 Cords maple wood by sd Nickles	a #1.01 - per C	#5.05
20 Cords		#20.05

1819 In 1819, the conditions set forth for getting the wood indicate some suggestion for using part of the Ministerial lot for a burying ground, but no other reference is found in the Records supporting this, so that it is probable that either the spot was considered unsuitable, or else the people were unable to put it to that use under the terms of Mr. Blood's will.

"Conditions of getting Rev. Paul Litchfield's wood Nov 17, 1819 - The wood to be taken from the southerly end of the ministerial lot / settled by the town for burial ground / to be cut clean four feet in length / & carried by the undertaker to Mr Litchfield's house, or any other place which he & the sd undertaker may agree upon - & then the undertaker is to cord the same before the 1st next March. 1st Lot to be taken on the sd south side sd lot - next north - next still north - next still north - if not enough on sd contemplated burial ground to make up the last lot then such trees are to be taken as the Commt mark."

Town Records - Book 5- Pages 192 and 193

Report On Simon Blood Jr. Donation 1819-1825

A Committee composed of Asa Farlin, Ezeiel Nickles and Aaron Robbins, appointed by the town in 1818 with instructions "to settle with the trustees of Simon Blood Jr's donation," "attended that service," and reported in part as follows:

Perhaps it would not be a miss to state the manner in which this donation was given, as we presume there are some who are unacquainted with the matter. Simon Blood Jr by his last will and Testament gave the town then District of Carlisle a certain woodlot which was to be kept for a ministerial lot. Among other legacies he gave the town one hundred pounds, the interest of which was to be laid out in schooling, and in his will he mentioned that in case there should be more estate left at his decease, than what was mentioned in the will the remainder was to be divided among the legatees in the same proportion as what was mentioned to be given them. The woodlot was appraised at one hundred pounds, so the town's legacy was two hundred pounds, and as there was a considerable sum more than to pay the several legacies mentioned in the will, the District drew a part both for the money given for schooling and for the woodlot, as may appear by the following statement.

"It appears by an account of the original notes taken for the donation money when it was let out exhibited by Capt Samuel Heald that the sum received in money was

*720.47

It appears that the interest of \$500 - dollars has been appropriated to the use of schooling as the remainder of the money which was

*220.47

Town Records - Books - Pages 386 and 388

"

"

"

Page 391 - 1st

was considered to be ministerial money - all the interest above thirty dollars a year has been added to the principal. So that the present notes amount to $\$929.24$ Besides $\$114.30$ which Capt Sam^l Heald admits that he is accountable for $\$114.30$ Amounting in the whole to $\$1043.54$ Besides about seventy nine dollars in interest due on said notes - also some money on hand, said to be between twenty and thirty dollars."

There follows an account of the sums paid from the fund to each school district and the recommendation that Capt Sam^l Heald, who had had the entire care of the money all through the years without compensation, be paid for his services at the rate of "two dollars twenty five cents a year for twenty two years with two dollars extra for one year in which he had more trouble than common". The report of this investigating committee, a very full and careful one, was accepted March 1, 1819 although it will be seen later that their recommendation about rewarding Capt Heald was not adopted.

Again in 1825 at the April Town Meeting, a committee of three were elected "to settle with the trustees of the Simon Blood Jr's Donation and choose John Nelson Esq. & John Green & Cyrus Heald for said Committee". This committee reported on May 2, 1825 and it was "voted to choose a trustee in the room of Capt Sam^l Heald to take care of the Donation and choose Mr James Green for said trustee he to make a statement of the funds and his charges once in two years at the annual March meet-

Town Records. Book 5 - Pages 443 and 444 - 4th

" " " Page 445 - no. 20

ing he to give Bonds to the Satisfaction of the Selectmen. Then choose John Nelson Esq. and Dea John Green a committee to act with said trustee in making a further settlement with Capt Samuel Heald, they to make a statement of their doings at some futer meeting.

It will be seen by the above vote that Capt Samuel Heald who had administered the Blood Donation through the years was not relieved of his duties by the appointment of a successor until 1825 and even then he did not receive the remuneration recommended by the investigating committee of 1818 and 1819. At a Town Meeting on May 7, 1827 the fourth article was "to know if" said Town will express their minds relative to allowing Capt Samuel Heald his account for taking care of the Ministerial lot from 1795 to 1815." It was voted "to leave it discretionary with the selectmen to settle with Capt Samuel Heald but they not to allow him more than eight dollars." This sum was finally paid to Capt. Heald, according to the following order, the wording of which would imply that he might have been better compensated for his services except for the restraining vote of the town.

"No. 20. \$8.00 Carlisle May 29th 1827
Dea John Green Treasurer or successor
sis please to pay Capt Samuel Heald eight
dollars it being all that the selectmen
are authorized to allow him by a vote
of the Town for taking care of the Min-
isterial wood lot from 1795 to 1815 and
this shall be your discharge for the
same

By order - John Heald - Town Clerk"

Town Records, Book 5 Page 47 17th

" " Book 5 - Page 357 - 17th

" " " - Page 359 17th

Ministerial Lot - 1823.

During these years another attempt was made to dispose of the Ministerial lot. At a Town Meeting April 7, 1823 it was "voted to petition the Legislature for liberty to sell the Ministerial Lot" and the Selectmen were chosen a committee for that purpose. Again, although we find no record of the proceedings, the effort, if attempted was unsuccessful, for during several more years action is recorded on the Ministerial Lot.

Horse Stable - 1824.

There seems to be no account of the removal of the horse stables south of the Meetinghouse which was requested in 1803, but presumably it was attended to for in 1824 the subject of erecting "Horse Stables" was again under discussion.

At the March meeting in 1824, the 11th article was "To see if the Town will give to any of the inhabitants of said Carlisle who are so disposed liberty to build Horse stables on the common near the meetinghouse in said Carlisle or pass any votes respecting the same which they may think proper when assembled." It was "Voted to choose a committee of three to examine the ground for horse stables and report at April meeting chose John Jacobs Thomas Heald and James Green said Committee."

At the April Town Meeting it was voted to put the matter over to the May meeting, although the committee made

Town Records. Unindexed, on file with
Town Clerk's Records.

" " Book 5. Page 366 - First

" " " Page 368 - First

The following report on this date: -

Carlisle April 5. 1824

We the subscribers a Committee chosen at March meeting last to view the common and see if it might be convenient to build some horse stables on said common if any person shall be disposed to erect them. Your committee having attended that service - are of the opinion that there may be ten stables built of the width of ten feet each on the south of the Meetinghouse between said house and the road the back of said stables to come near the wall and if any more stables may be wanted we think there may be eight more erected on the west side of the common the south end to be where there is two small heaps of stones put down all which is respectfully submitted -

John Jacobs
Thomas Heald
James Green

The first article in the warrant for the Town Meeting on May 3rd 1824 was "To consider and act on the report of the committee chosen at the last annual March meeting relative to giving the inhabitants of said Town liberty to erect horse stables on the common near the Meetinghouse in said Carlisle which committee made a Report at April meeting and was then put over to May meeting." It was "Voted to give the inhabitants of said town liberty to erect horse stables on the common between Lt. Zebulun Spaldings noon House and the Road south of the Meetinghouse. Then chose John Jacobs Thomas Heald & James Green a committee to make the necessary arrangement or agreement in order to secure the right of the

Town and the privilege of the individuals who may wish to erect horse stables on said common."

